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LD0601140489 [Editorial Report]

Libya

Five U.S. military aircraft participated in the "premeditated military aggression" against two Libyan "reconnaissance" aircraft, JANA claimed.

The agency also stated that U.S. claims about the Libyan "medicine" plant at Al-Rabitah have been proven false by the evidence given by Western firms allegedly involved in the project.

Among further Arab reaction to the U.S.-Libyan clash, a PLO spokesman cited by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio voiced "strong condemnation" of the "blatant U.S. aggression," warning that the U.S. action will give Israel a "green light" to escalate its "iron fist" policy against the uprising and attack Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

On U.S. intentions, the radio contended that President Reagan is planning to complete "the last black page in his political life" by using all the bullets in his "cowboy terrorist pistol" in a "reckless adventure" against Libya.

A commentary by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio asserted that denunciations of U.S. and Zionist "terrorism" are not enough: the Arab states should adopt a "practical strategy" and speed up moves to convene an Arab summit conference.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Jordan 6 January for talks with senior officials, Amman radio reported.

In Riyadh, the Saudi paper AL-MADINAH quoted 'Arafat as saying that he has "important" information about the crash of the Pan Am airliner in Scotland last month, according to KUNA.

In France, President Francois Mitterrand announced that the status of the PLO office in Paris will be upgraded to that of a "general delegation" of Palestine, AFP noted.

The delegation will not have diplomatic privileges or status and Mitterrand stressed that France cannot recognize the "state" proclaimed by the PNC because it has no territory.

Saudi Arabia

Murder of Diplomat—The "Soldiers of Truth" claimed responsibility for the 4 January assassination of a Saudi diplomat in Bangkok.

In a communique from Beirut reported by AFP, the organization said the killing is a warning for all those who serve the Saudi ruling family to "stop working for these heretics if they want to escape the same fate."

The same organization also claimed responsibility for a recent attack on another Saudi diplomat, AFP noted.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry expressed "utter dismay" over the attack in a statement cited by SPA, adding that the Kingdom is closely following the incident and will take steps to safeguard the security of its "sons abroad."

Oil Tanker Explosion—An explosion and fire on board a Saudi tanker in the Gulf killed six members of its crew, according to Lloyds reports cited by INA.

Iraq

In a speech broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio 6 January, President Saddam Husayn warned Iran against massing troops along the border, stressing that Iraq rejects the presence of troop concentrations on its borders and will view such a development as a "threat" and a "preparation for the resumption of the aggression."

If the Iranians are planning to resume the war, they will find Iraq completely ready to defend itself and will face an "impregnable wall capable of dealing fatal blows to them."

Saddam Husayn also criticized the Arab League's "historic mistake" of giving Syria a "legitimate cover" for its forces' entry into Lebanon in 1976, adding that the Arab states should now adopt a "brave" stand to rectify the situation.

The first urgent step would be for the Arab League to take responsibility for enabling the Lebanese people to choose a new president in a "free" manner, without "terrorism, pressure, and extortion" from outside.

Morocco-Polisario Talks

The Polisario Front delegation left Morocco after holding a second meeting with King Hassan II, Algiers radio reported.

Saharan sources cited by the radio disclosed that the talks were held in "good conditions" and in a serious atmosphere.

A Polisario representative told Paris radio that he hopes the talks will create a climate of "calm and trust" between the two parties, leading to further and frequent meetings aimed at overcoming obstacles and reaching agreement.

Afghanistan

Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov began talks with Afghan mujahidin alliance leaders in Islamabad 6 January, Islamabad radio announced.

Sources cited by AFP stated that "progress" was made in the morning session, disclosing that the Soviet side agreed to consider the mujahidin's demand to drop communist leaders from a new coalition government.

In talks with Vorontsov the previous day, Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan affirmed that the establishment of a broad-based government acceptable to the Afghan people is the only way to restore peace in Afghanistan, Islamabad radio noted.

Commenting on the Soviet troop withdrawal, Moscow radio stated that "all indications are that the Soviet Union will complete the scheduled withdrawal under any circumstances."

However, the radio acknowledged that Vorontsov's recent statement in Islamabad on this issue was "evasive."

On the military situation in Afghanistan, Kabul radio stated that the rebels continued attacks in over 30 regions of various provinces in the period 1-5 January.

These operations by "extremists" were directed at civilian targets, killing 18 people and wounding 39.

The radio claimed that the Afghan Armed Forces responded by killing 141 rebels and wounding 71 and that another 95 rebels were killed and 68 wounded in disputes among rebel factions over whether to observe the cease-fire.

Although "some leaders of large armed groups" rejected the cease-fire, the radio said, armed groups in "a number" of provinces have abided by it.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Condemns U.S. Downing of Libyan Planes

LD0501120489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1142 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Jeddah, 5 Jan (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] deplores the shooting down of two Libyan planes by the U.S. Air Force [as received] yesterday over the Mediterranean Sea.

In a statement released today by ICO Secretary General Dr Hamid al-Ghamid, the organization affirms its full solidarity with the Libyan Jamahiriyah and calls upon its members to stand by the Libyan side at this very time.

The statement says this aggression constitutes a violation of the sovereignty of an ICO state member and of all international norms and conventions.

The statement recalls the Libyan denial of the claims that it has a plant which produces chemical weapons and Libya's agreement to receive a committee to tour the plant in question in order to ascertain that it is a pharmaceutical plant.

Palestinian Affairs

Further Reaction to Downing of Libyan Planes

Attack Called 'Unjustified'

AU0501113889 Rome ANSA in English 1035 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, Jan 5—The Palestine Liberation Organization representative in Rome, Nimr Hammad, said the downing of two Libyan MiGs by U.S. fighter planes over the Mediterranean Wednesday morning was "an attack which was certainly unjustified" and voiced concern over complications the incident could cause for peace moves in the Middle East.

In a statement delivered in the evening, Hammad said the U.S. attack on the Libyan planes was "unjustified because it has not been proven that the Al-Rabitah plant produces chemical weapons and because there are countries in the Mediterranean, like Israel, which are helped by the U.S. and which undoubtedly possess chemical and nuclear weapons".

The PLO representative's reference to the Al-Rabitah plant in Libya was to American allegations that the facilities were built for the production of chemical weapons and Tripoli statements that the plant is intended for turning out medicines.

Hammad said he was "sorry" and worried about "this dangerous escalation at a time in which there are efforts focused on a solution through international diplomacy. This attack complicates the situation and runs counter to pacification and the spirit of detente.

"We still hope that international and Italian diplomacy can find a solution and that there will absolutely be no clash or war", he said.

Other sources said in the evening that the Arab ambassadors in Rome intend to ask for a meeting in the Foreign Ministry to express their appreciation for Italian diplomatic moves and their concern with the turn of events surrounding the U.S.- Libyan dispute.

Qaddumi Denounces 'Aggression'

JN0501171589 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The PLO has denounced the shooting down by U.S. aircraft of two Libyan planes which were carrying out a routine reconnaissance mission over the Mediterranean and described this as an ugly aggression.

In a statement distributed in Tunis last night, brother Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, affirmed the PLO's support for the Libyan people against this aggression. He also called on Arab states to stand by Libya's side and urged the United Nations, the international organizations, and all friendly countries to deplore the aggression and call for its immediate end.

Qaddumi referred to the U.S. threats against Libya, which preceded the shooting down of the two planes under the allegation that Libya has a chemical weapons factory, and said:

The United States should itself stop producing the most destructive nuclear weapons and deal in the same manner with its ally, the Zionist entity, which for many years has been massing nuclear and all other lethal weapons, including chemical weapons.

Dissidents Condemn 'Aggression'

JN0501201489 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Reacting to the American aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, a [dissident] Fatah spokesman has stated the following:

The imperialist American aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah amounts to a rank aggression against the entire Arab nation, open defiance of all of international norms and conventions, and a threat to strike at Libya's courageous pan-Arab role in confronting imperialism and Zionism.

The spokesman aded: The imperialist American aggression against the Jamahiriyah once again demonstrates that the United States is a deadly enemy of the Arab nation and should be dealt with accordingly. The United States not only supports and protects the Zionist entity. It commits direct aggression against the governments and forces of the Arab liberation movements.

The media spokesman for Fatah added:

The alliance binding all Arab liberation movements, led by Syria, will serve to thwart the conspiracies and aggressions to which the Arab nation is subjected. As we denounce this open aggression, we declare our determined support for our brothers in the Jamahiriyah in confronting the imperialist American aggression.

The media spokesman for Fatah concluded the statement by saying:

We appeal to all progressive forces around the world to stand by the Jamahiriyah in confronting the American aggression by exposing and confronting it.

Al-Sa'iqah on 'Savage Aggression'

JN0501204089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The Al-Sa'iqah Forces General Command has issued a statement saying:

Our people's masses: The treacherous U.S. aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah marks a new link in the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy's chain against the Arab forces of steadfastness in particular and the Arab nation in general.

By committing this aggression, Washington has thus underlined its spiteful, hostile stand toward the Arab nation and its determination to press ahead with a provocative scheme to strike at Libya's revolutionary, progressive system of government as well as to create circumstances favorable to U.S. domination and hegemony over the entire region to further American and Zionist interests.

The Al-Sa'iqah Forces General Command's statement went on to say:

As the Al-Sa'iqah denounces this savage new aggression, it would like to stress its solidarity with the Libyan Jamahiriyah, which constitutes one of the key Arab trenches of solidarity against the aggressive plans and projects. It emphasizes that the misleading media effort mounted by Washington and other imperialist circles will only culminate in failure. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah will remain one of the Arab bastions of steadfastness against the imperialist-Zionist aggression and a strong champion of liberation and progress movements around the world.

The Al-Sa'iqah Forces statement added:

The Al-Sa'iqah organization is confident of Libya's ability to confront and abort aggression and is resolved to face defiance in kind and stick to its lofty principles and goals. As it urges a worldwide solidarity with the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Al-Sa'iqah calls on the Arab nation to close ranks in the face of aggression and to boycott the United States and strike at its interests in the region.

The Al-Sa'iqah statement said in conclusion:

Al-Sa'iqah places its forces at the disposal of the great Libyan Arab people and the leader of their revolution, brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. We are confident that the Arab nation and its steadfast revolutionary and progressive forces will triumph in the battle with the treacherous imperialist-Zionist aggression.

'Cowboy Reagan' Criticized

LD0501184689 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Brothers, yesterday cowboy Reagan committed another folly that may not be the last of the political and military folly during his stay in the U.S. White House.

This was manifested by his giving orders to the planes of the U.S. 6th Fleet, which is deployed near Libyan shores, to commit aggression against Libyan territory and against Libyan planes that were carrying out a reconnaissance mission to protect the Libyan Arab shores and airspace by shooting down two Libyan planes.

The bullets Reagan fired from his cowboy terrorist pistol were not and will not be the last. His pistol still is loaded with bullets of hatred, crime, and terrorism and he seems resolved not to leave the White House without using the rest of the terror bullets in his pistol.

This confirms Reagan will embark on a new reckless adventure in the next few days, which are his last days in the White House, and this adventure will be aimed at the Libyan Jamahiriyah, its people and leadership, and its land and institutions.

According to those very close to Reagan he is living his last political days in a nervous condition that reflects the extent to which his morale has slumped because he cannot complete his terrorist journey despite his long years of residence in the U.S. White House.

Also according to those close to him, Reagan wants to write with the last bullet in his cowboy pistol the last black page in his political life: a black record full of terrorism, hatred of the Arab nations, and the denial of their lawful rights, particularly with regard to our Palestinian people and the peoples of our Arab nation in general.

In the face of all this, our Arab nation is called upon to take serious steps to stand firmly in the face of the U.S. Administration and its hostile policy directed not only against Libya or any specific Arab country, but is basically aimed at all the peoples of our Arab nation, from the Ocean to the Gulf.

Concerning the U.S. aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the official PLO spokesman has announced the following:

The PLO expresses its strong condemnation of the shooting down of two Libyan planes over Libyan territorial waters yesterday morning by the planes of the U.S. aggression threatening Libyan territory under flimsy excuses and pretexts.

While repeating its strong condemnation of this U.S. aggression, the PLO expresses its strong solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people and their leadership in confronting this threat, which is directed not only against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, but also against our entire Arab nation, from the ocean to Gulf.

During these difficult hours, the PLO call, on our Arab nation—its governments and peoples—to express their opposition to this blatant U.S. aggression which has no justification at all. This aggression against fraternal Libya exposes the endeavors for peace in the Middle East to danger and pushes them to the brink of war.

The PLO regards this U.S. aggression as a green light for the Zionist enemy to escalate its iron fist policy against our people's gallant uprising. It also constitutes a preparation for an imminent Zionist aggression against our steadfast camps in south lebanon.

U.S. 'Threats' 'Executed'

JN0501215289 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1953 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Station commentary: "The Arab Summit Conference and Facing the Continued Organized Official Terrorism of the Zionist Entity and the United States of America"]

[Text] Brothers, sons of our great Palestinian people, sons of our glorious Arab nation: More than once, and on many occasions, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has asserted his denounciation of the aggressive threats by the United States against our brothers in the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

These threats were executed yesterday in a clearly provocative manner, which violates all limits of international law and the UN Charter. This is also considered a deviation by the United States from the conduct that is supposed to govern the behavior of superpowers. In the statement it issued after its recent meetings in Baghdad, the PLO Executive Committee also denounced these U.S. threats against the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah.

It is noticeable that this U.S. aggression comes at the time when the Zionist entity, the U.S. ally, is practicing the worst forms of organized official terrorism against the masses of our people throughout the homeland. The Zionist entity is doubling the rates of terrorism, violence, murder, abduction of children, demolition of houses, and deportation of our people to outside the homeland. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has described these practices as frank violations of the fourth Geneva Convention, a violation of all international norms and laws, and a deliberate sabotage of peace efforts.

If the fraternal Arab stances have all clearly denounced the logic of Zionist terrorism and hooliganism and the logic of U.S. terrorism and hooliganism, denunciation alone is not enough to face those who do not respect any international law or moral value. Each day they appear to the world with an ugly face—the face of disrespect for peoples, aggression, and displays of blind force against them.

Yes, denunciations, no matter how clear they may be, are not enough to restrain our enemy. A practical strategy must be adopted by Arab states to preserve the nation, its vital interests, and the future it desires.

This may be a greater motive for speeding the convening of the Arab summit so Arab brothers can meet on the highest level and discuss the matters surrounding them, increase their Arab solidarity, and adopt the strategy that will actually allow them to defend their rights, lives, existence, independence, and pan-Arab security.

Within this framework, we return to the policy of deportation and expulsion, to which the enemy resorts once again, in a manner that violates all unanimous international resolutions that have been and continue to be issued by the United Nations in this regard. Can we remain silent over these Zionist practices? Will the Arab brothers be satisfied only with denunciation, while the caravans of the deportees continue from time to time.

The Arab states, whether those surrounding occupied Palestine or those representing the depth of the Arab nation, have enough elements of pressure, force, and effectiveness to allow them, under the canopy of a precise strategy, to represent real restraint on this excess in terrorism by the Zionist enemy and, hence, force it to abide by the international community's resolutions.

After 13 continuous months of the heroic blessed uprising's momentum, the semi-neutral situation that exists now cannot continue. There are a number of alternatives to pressure this mad malicious enemy. It is time for Arab states to begin to implement these numerous and worthy alternatives.

The great achievement scored by the Palestinian people in the arenas of struggle and on the level of political resolutions and initiatives and the size of international unanimity, which supports Palestinian rights, can constitute a great motive and a broad cover for Arab states if they decide to adopt an effective strategy against the Zionist enemy and its terrorism and crimes.

This is the first priority on the agenda of the Arab summit, which we call for as soon as possible. We also call for emerging from the state of Arab inaction, from which our enemies benefit in their attempt to enforce their aggressive facts.

We are very confident that, under the leadership of the PLO, our Palestinian generations, who are expecting so much from the Arab brothers other than sympathy and passing denunciations, are able to continue the sacrifice, struggle, and creativity despite the difficulty of all the circumstances. It is a revolution until victory.

'Arafat on 'Important Information' on Crash

LD0601113289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1002 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 6 (KUNA)—Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was quoted here Friday as saying he has plenty and important information regarding the Pan Am airliner which crashed over Scotland last month.

'Arafat told the Saudi daily AL-MADINAH the information he has about the Pan Am crash were "important and plenty".

According to the paper, the Palestinian leader did not give any information, but said there is continuous cooperation between his organisation and a number of European countries as well as the U.S. regarding the perpetrators of the Pan Am incident.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan recently said his country would welcome any information 'Arafat could render to his government regarding the crash of the American plane.

Praises Relations With U.S.

LD0601131089 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat praised Palestinian-U.S. relations and said they are witnessing clear relaxation and rapprochement.

In an interview with AL-MADINAH, published today, he said the coming few days will witness sudden developments on the international level concerning the Palestine problem and added that the Bush administration will show more understanding of the Palestine problem.

'Arafat pointed out that he has much important information regarding the Pan Am aircraft incident, and said: "There is international cooperation between the PLO, a number of European countries and the United States, aimed at exposing the perpetrators of the explosion incident."

He said that President Reagan had expressed confidence that Yasir 'Arafat will provide the United States with any information available to him regarding this incident.

'Arafat Comments on Dialogue With U.S., Syria

JN0501115889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1940 GMT 4 Jan 89

["Text of dialogue" with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by AL-YAWM AL-SABI' Chief Editor Bilal al-Hasan in Baghdad—date not given]

[Text] AL-YAWM AL SABI': The talk currently revolves around the expected Palestinian step, the step of forming a provisional government. We would like to ask about the bases of the formation of this government and when it will be formed?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: The PLO Executive Committee, which is currently assuming the task of the provisional government, has formed a committee to study all the political, legal, and administrative aspects pertaining to the formation of the government.

It was tasked with holding contacts with all the parties in the Palestinian arena, particularly with our brothers in the occupied homeland and Lebanon to sound their opinion because the resolution that the PNC adopted stipulates that the government will be formed from figures and leaders inside and outside the occupied homeland.

We hope that the committee will submit its report in the 1st month of 1989 so the appropriate decision may be made in light of this report.

There is no doubt that the contacts we hold with our Arab brothers, and our friends in the world, not to mention the contacts that are currently taking place in the hallways of the United Nations, or the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will have their impact on setting the date for the proclamation of this government.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': Will this government be a minicabinet or an expanded one?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: I expect that it will be an expanded government. But we will take into consideration the possibility that Israel may deal negatively with the names of the figures from the occupied homeland who will be part of this government.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': What will be the relationship between the government bodies and those of the PLO?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: This issue will also be discussed by the committee that was formed for this purpose.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': There are states which have officially and legally recognized the Palestinian state that was proclaimed by the PNC. Will you appoint new ambassadors to these countries or will the PLO representatives in these countries be given the status of ambassadors?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: In most cases, we will name the PLO representative as ambassadors. But this will not always be the case. We have done so in Algeria and Iraq.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': You have started negotiations with the United States. What are the constants of the Palestinian stand during these negotiations?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: Our constants consist of the PNC resolutions. These resolutions emphasize the Palestinian people's national and political rights, foremost being their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state on Palestinian soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

The PNC resolutions also mention that the attainment of these rights will take place through an international conference under UN supervision and with the participation of the UN Security Council permanent members and all the parties to the conflict in the region. This means all the concerned Arab countries, the Palestinian state, and the enemy state, that is, Israel. We do not negotiate with ourselves. We negotiate with our enemies.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': These Palestinian constants are faced by U.S. stands which conflict with them, such as the call for direct negotiations with Israel. How will you tackle this issue?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: There is confusion between what the U.S. media say and the stands to which the U.S. Administration has officially committed itself, not with us but with the international parties. An agreement took place in Moscow and was reconfirmed in Washington with respect to the international conference.

The main point of this agreement is that the international conference will convene and will pursue its work. This conference will produce committees—committes between the parties to the conflict—to be followed by committees for the other problems. AL-YAWM AL-SABI': But the U.S. concept of an international conference is that it is only an umbrella?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: This is not so. It has been agreed that the conference will be in continuous session.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': If this is so, can we say that there are no differences between you and the United States on an international conference?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: The concept of the continuous international conference is the concept that has been agreed upon between Moscow and Washington. At this conference a dialogue will be held between Israel and the Arab regimes. The dialogue will not be in accordance with the formula of the Rhodes conference at which the Arab-Israeli armistice agreements were formulated.

The dialogue will be in accordance with the formula of the Geneva conference in which Syria, Jordan, and Egypt participated and in which the PLO was supposed to participate in accordance with the joint U.S.-Egyptian statement between Egyptian Foreign Minister Isma'il Fahmi and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in 1977.

This statement said the PLO must participate but on a lower level. I recall that at the time I named some Palestinian professors to participate in this conference.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': The United States also says it is against the Palestinian state. Is this a point of disagreement between you and the United States?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: The Americans have said no to the PLO. They said no to Yasir 'Arafat. They said no to many things. Then they held talks with negotiatiors who belong to the PLO and with their chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': What points of difference could there be between the United States and the Palestinians in the negotiations which started?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: The Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is not negotations. It is only a dialogue. The United States in the past refused to listen to us and we did not listen to it. Now they are listening to us and we are listening to them.

This is the case between us and the French for example, while not forgetting that there is a difference between the U.S. stand and the French stand. These are not negotiations. They are only an exchange of views.

However, we realize that when we negotiate with the Israelis we negotiate with the Americans and when we negotiate with the Americans we negotiate with the Israelis.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': Opposite the Palestinian constants, there are Israeli stands. The Israelis are currently calling for elections in the occupied territories in accordance with the Camp David accords?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: This matter no longer exists. It no longer exists with what the Egyptians had announced. The Egyptians have also announced that Camp David is an agreement between two states and that these two states cannot reach an agreement on behalf of a third party. From this premise, President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government have declared their recognition of a Palestinian state.

I would like to take this opportunity to address all the Arab intellectuals and tell them: Israel will propose many things. There is absolutely no need for them to focus their attention on what the Israeli command may propose. We must think about our Palestinian and Arab objectives. We must have confidence in ourselves. From the premise of this confidence, I say that many questions that preoccupy the minds of the intellectuals and journalists have no place in the minds of the Palestinian command.

Had I not been confident in myself and in my brother strugglers following my departure from Tripoli in 1983 and following the Arab-Israeli siege on the Palestinian Revolution Forces in Tripoli, I would have gathered my papers and gone home. But self-confidence is the one which has made us continue our march.

I will give you another example. When Israel's Defense Minister Rabin announced that he would wipe out the uprising in 2 days, I defied him and told him: I give you 2 weeks, 2 months, and 2 years. Many who had heard this at the time were not sure of such talk. But here is the uprising which enters its 2d year.

Self-confidence is the weapon with which to confront all the Israeli maneuvers. I call on intellectuals and journalists to assist us in enhancing this self-confidence.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': What is your position on Israel's return to the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: By declaring Jordan's decision to disengage ties with the West Bank, His Majesty King Husayn ended discussions on this subject.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': The new Israeli coalition government rejects the idea of a Palestinian state and renews the idea of autonomy.

Brother Abu 'Ammar: This is a cracked Israeli record. I hope that my brothers and everybody will keep their nerves strong.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': So, you consider that the Palestinian situation, within the current Arab and international situation, has passed the Camp David ideas in any forthcoming negotiations?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: The Camp David accords have ended. It is not me who says this but the Egyptian side. Any return to Camp David is an attempt to play a cracked record by a lunatic and rude person named Shamir, a person who does not know how to live in his age, and who is still living in the age of Who is a Jew?

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': Are you satisfied with the cohesion of the internal Palestinian situation?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: We reached an agreement in the PNC and for the first time we practiced a method of action. The independence decision was agreed upon unanimously and the political statement was approved by a majority of 83 percent. In my moves, I proceed from these resolutions. When the representatives of the Palestinian people meet and withdraw their confidence in me, I will leave.

Here, I should make it clear that there is no summer and winter under one roof. There are basic things already decided by the PNC and we should not return once again to the climate of the debate that preceded the PNC session. We agreed to practice opposition in the shade of Palestinian democracy and national unity.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': Some say the Palestinian leadership went beyond the PNC resolutions.

Brother Abu 'Ammar: I think that the PLO Executive Committee's statement, issued a few days ago, is clear in affirming harmony between our decisions and moves. My speech at the United Nations and my statements to newspapers in Geneva are in total harmony with the PNC resolutions.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': We want to hear from you your assessment of the religious political forces operating in the occupied territories.

Brother Abu 'Ammar: I respect their viewpoints. These forces have participated in the PNC session and argued as they wished. After this they are committed to all PNC resolutions. Some confusion occurred in the occupied territories, but these forces declared their commitment.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': Do you not think that the militant and political burden at the new stage falls on the shoulders of our kinfolk in the occupied territories and that, consequently, the kinfolk should have a distinguished status in the expected tasks and formations?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: This subject should not be discussed in this way. First, the Palestinian people are one people and cannot be divided into two. At a certain stage, our Palestinian people in Lebanon took all the burden. Second, we think of all the territories occupied in 1967, not only the West Bank and Gaza. We are thinking of the Al-Himmah region, the (Ka'wash) triangles, and the region extending from the Tiberius to Baniyas, 5 km deep.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': You are heading toward the task of hard negotiations?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: Of course. It is much more serious than the tasks of war. Tasks of war are definitive, while tasks of peace are complicated.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': But throughout your life you have acted in a different way than that required for negotiations.

Brother Abu 'Ammar: Who said that? Were there not lengthy negotiations between us and Philip Habib in 1982? I can boast that as we were fighting Israel we built the institutions of a full state-in-exile and we did the same thing under the uprising in the occupied territories.

We built the popular committees, committees for agriculture, education, municipalities, ideological mobilization, and the strike force. For instance, there are now 51 popular committees in Nabulus, 52 in Gaza, 18 in Jabalyah camp, 17 in the Balatah camp, and 47 in Ramallah and Al-Birah.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': Do you consider yourself ready for negotiations as far as the availability of the necessary technical team and the required studies are concerned?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: Do you know that years ago we prepared files for many issues, for example, the issues of water, Palestinian currency, and financial dues. Currently, there is a committee studying all resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli truce.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': After 90 states recognized the State of Palestine and the refrain by some countries from fully recognizing this state, how do you assess the position of the West European countries?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: I think it is below the desired level. The French position is hesitant; the British stand is negative; and the FRG stand is indifferent and totally biased toward the Israeli viewpoint.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': Do you expect certain European stands over the next months?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: This concerns Europe. Does Europe want to be inside the event? He who attends the event will be present in the future. Has Europe decided to change its course?

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': How do you evaluate your meeting with his holiness the pope?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: I highly evaluate this meeting. His holiness gave me the honor of meeting me during the days of retreat before Christmas. He also met me officially with all the accompanying protocol. I consider this official reception a gift from his holiness and from the Vatican to the people of the land of peace, the land of Palestine. His holiness the pope's talk was a message from the Vatican to the entire world, testifying that the Vatican supports the Palestinian right to establish a state.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': Do you think the Vatican's position has a political impact?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: Of course. It is the smallest state as far as area is concerned, but is the most important state morally and politically.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': How do you want the Arab role concerning the Palestinian cause to be at this stage?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: I ask the Arabs to implement the political and financial resolutions of the Algiers summit.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': What do you want from them in the process of negotiations?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: I will not be alone in the negotiation process. The Arab countries will be with me. Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and the representatives of the Palestinian people will be together in the negotiations, which will be held within an international conference and under the unbrella of the United Nations.

One of the things we thought of is to call for a meeting to be attended by the five parties concerned with the negotiations so as to lay down a cohesive Arab plan. We must not go as parties with different views to face a malicious enemy like the Zionist enemy.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': The return of Egypt to the Arab League is being discussed.

Brother Abu 'Ammar: This has been my position for some time. I am now optimistic that this can be achieved. Egypt's recognition of the State of Palestine means beyond any doubt the end of the Palestinian part of Camp David.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': Do you expect Syria to restore its relations with Egypt?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: I am not disclosing current secrets, but there are contacts by some Arab parties. A halt to media campaigns has been declared and attempts to hold Palestinian-Syrian meetings are currently under way. All these efforts are to be exerted by brothers in Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': Do you see that these Arab contacts with Syria affect the strength of Palestinian alliances?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: Not at all. Syria is feeling isolated after its position in Lebanon, its hostility toward the Palestinian revolution and the PLO, and its known position toward the Iraq-Iran war, especially after the Iraqi victory that crowned this war.

The Iraqi soldiers who defended the eastern gate of the Arab nation are the natural and basic allies of the strugglers of the blessed uprising and the steadfast heroes in southern Lebanon. The outcome of the Iraq-Iran war

and the steadfastness of the strugglers of the uprising are the main factors that shifted the balance and prompted the United States to change its position toward the PLO.

AL-YAWM AL-SABI': We daily hear in Arab and international media about Palestinian concessions and about a limit to concessions. Do you agree to this talk about concessions?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: Some journalists take the expressions of hostile media and use them without thinking in Arab media. The one that retracted was Shultz, not 'Arafat. I neither retracted nor changed my tune.

The PLO Executive Committee approved my address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. It also agreed to my speeches in Harare in 1986 and in Addis Ababa.

In the negotiations that led to the Amman accord, we presented the formula of the third formula [as heard] in which we linked the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the confederation with Jordan. The United States rejected that formula. Why? Because there was neither the uprising nor an Iraqi victory. After the uprising and the Iraqi victory the U.S. position changed.

'Arafat Cited on Making Jerusalem Capital

LD0501212989 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Dec 88

[Text] In an interview with the German DER SPIEGEL magazine, the brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said we will not be able to accept the establishment of a state consisting of two separate parts. He added there are many settlements one can think of, but the PLO will demand the creation of a passage in all cases.

He said the PLO intends to make Jerusalem capital of the Palestinian state and added we demand an Arab Jerusalem [nutalib bi quds arabiya] no more, no less.

On defining the territories of the coming Palestinian state, the brother commander in chief said that on the basis of the resolutions of the UN on the Middle East conflict, all the territories that were annexed by force must return, and this applies to East Jerusalem.

He went on to say: The PLO will not in any case accept the establishment of a state with a temporary capital. He pointed out that the example of West Germany with its temporary capital Bonn will not be (acceptable?) to us. He confirmed that the day of the establishment of the Palestinian state [words indistinct]

'Arafat Denies 'Concessions' on Resolution 242

JN0601092689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jan (WAHK)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has denied that the organization made any concessions when it declared its approval of UN Resolution 242. He said the PNC approval of this resolution was conditional on three basic constants: a Palestinian state, self-determination, and repatriation. He said that the Palestinian approval included all UN resolutions, not just one resolution.

Addressing members of the Palestinian community in Abu Dhabi yesterday evening, 'Arafat said the political Palestinian steps are not new, but are based on the resolutions of Arab summits and Palestinan national councils. He said the world did not listen to these resolutions before, but in the year 1988 the world's countries listened to them due to the many strategic changes that took place in the Arab arena, foremost of which were the outbreak of the popular Palestinian uprising, its continuation, the return of Egypt to the Arab nation, and the termination of the Iraq-Iran war.

'Arafat warned of a major Zionist attack on Palestinians in Lebanon to get out of the predicament posed by the blessed uprising and the political impasse experienced by the Zionist entity. He asserted that this aggression will fail and the uprising will continue until victory is achieved, God willing.

Algeria

Libyan Call for Arab League Meeting Supported

LD0501150589 Algiers APS in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Algiers, 5 Jan, (APS)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that following the Libyan Jamahiriyah's request for an extraordinary meeting of the Arab League Council of Foreign Ministers, Algeria has announced its agreement to participate in an urgent meeting of this Council.

Egypt

Mubarak on PLO-U.S. Talks, Palestinian State

AU0501164189 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 2 Jan 89 pp 108-110

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Volkhard Windfuhr in the presidential residence in Heliopolis: "Mr Shamir Is Stubborn"; date not given]

[Text] DER SPIEGEL: Mr President, Egypt is the only Arab country to maintain normal relations with Israel and the PLO. Is this not very difficult?

Mubarak: Our relations with the two superpowers and almost all Arab countries—with the exception of Syria and Libya—are excellent, which, of course, strengthens Egypt's starting position. We are using our indeed unique situation. Yes, I do think that we will be able to achieve a lot for bringing about a Middle East peace. This is proved by the fact that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has now been initiated.

DER SPIEGEL: Do you think of your telephone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz in this connection?

Mubarak: We want to help the Palestinians obtain their rights—without doing any harm to Israel. Therefore, we have repeatedly stressed the importance of UN Resolution 181, which is not only Israel's birth certificate, which nobody can doubt, but, at the same time, grants the Palestinians the right to their own state.

DER SPIEGEL: A return to UN Resolution 181 would, however, mean going back to the 1947 UN division plan for the borders of Palestine, which today would be a disadvantage for Israel. Israel will never agree to this.

Mubarak: We have made it clear to the Palestinians that only the 1967 borders are possible. We told them: It is impossible to deal with the border issue only vaguely and to leave it actually open. After all, you cannot demand Israeli territory.

DER SPIEGEL: Has the border problem been resolved?

Mubarak: Our arguments were convincing. Yasir 'Arafat's UN speech clearly shows that the Palestinians want to establish their state in the territories that were occupied by Israel in 1967. We will continue working, particularly to bring the PLO and the Israelis to the negotiating table within the framework of an international conference.

DER SPIEGEL: However, you cannot persuade them single-handedly.

Mubarak: Of course not, several fraternal Arab states are pulling together with us, such as Saudi Arabia and Jordan. It is not easy to help abolish prejudices, believe me. Only a few hours before the U.S. readiness to establish contacts with the PLO was announced, I explained to George Shultz that we had been able to convince the Palestinian National Council and the PLO leadership of the necessity to adopt a realistic attitude. I implored him to study the speech again because 'Arafat had accepted the three U.S. conditions for a dialogue with the PLO.

DER SPIEGEL: Primarily, the United States wanted the recognition of Israel and the condemnation of terrorism.

Mubarak: In any case, Shultz understood this and initiated the dialogue with the PLO, which has not been possible since the Kissinger era. This dialogue is a historic turning point. All of us, Arabs and Israelis, should make good use of this opportunity.

DER SPIEGEL: Okay, the United States is now speaking with the Palestinians, but it is conceivable that everybody will drag their feet again. Who can accelerate the process of peace? Perhaps you?

Mubarak: In view of the fact that neither the Arabs nor anybody else has written the destruction of Israel on their banner, more and more countries—certainly the European countries as well—will become the advocates of peace.

DER SPIEGEL: Is it correct that Egypt is trying to influence the pro-Israel Jewish lobby in the United States?

Mubarak: Of course, we are trying to convince the U.S. Jews of the fact that Israel can live in peace only if it agrees to coexistence with the Palestinian people. We do not miss any opportunity to make this clear.

DER SPIEGEL: With success?

Mubarak: I have noted that over there we are dealing with realists, who are guided by cool, factual knowledge and reason.

DER SPIEGEL: Nevertheless, many Arabs and also many Palestinians think that attempting to influence the Jews' political views in a way positive for them means love's labor is lost.

Mubarak: It is self-evident that there are hardliners both in Israel and in the Arab world. However, I know equally well that there are many positive elements in Israel—people who are longing for true peace.

DER SPIEGEL: Israeli Prime Minister Shamir insists on direct negotiations instead of an international conference.

Mubarak: Mr Shamir is stubborn. He must understand that an international conference is only an umbrella, but it will naturally lead to direct negotiations.

DER SPIEGEL: Is this so certain?

Mubarak: An international peace conference is the best formula for peace. As soon as the representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, of Israel, and of the Arab countries involved meet, geographically defined, regional negotiating groups will be formed. For instance, when the West Bank and Gaza are discussed, it is useless to have all partners in the conference participate equally.

Direct negotiations are a result of the nature of things. The advantage of the international framework is, however, the fact that agreements negotiated by the individual participants will be guaranteed internationally, which serves everyone.

DER SPIEGEL: Why should Egypt actually participate in a Middle East peace conference, since it settled its conflict with Israel more than 9 years ago and concluded a peace treaty with Israel?

Mubarak: Egypt is part of the Arab world, and when a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace is discussed—and this is precisely the purpose of an international peace conference—the largest Arab country can hardly be missing. In addition, there are indeed certain legal reasons.

DER SPIEGEL: Which ones?

Mubarak: Until 1967, Egypt was responsible for the administration of the Gaza Strip; theoretically the mandate still exists.

DER SPIEGEL: Would Cairo be willing to resume administration of the Gaza Strip? Allegedly, Israel proposed this once already.

Mubarak: No, the idea came from Egypt in the time of Al-Sadat. However, we gave up the idea quickly so as not to be accused of preventing an overall solution by treating the West Bank and Gaza separately. In addition, we have no right to decide on a territory that does not belong to us. The last word must be the PLO's in any case, which represents the people's will.

DER SPIEGEL: You have recognized the Palestinian state that was proclaimed in Algiers on 15 November. In the eyes of Israeli politicians, with this you violated the Camp David peace accord, which does not envisage unilateral measures by one partner to the agreement with regard to the final status of the occupied territories.

Mubarak: Camp David is outdated in regard to the occupied territories. Israel has ruined it. Was the establishment of the Israeli settlements right in the middle of the Palestinian heartland not a unilateral measure?

The annexation of Arab East Jerusalem, the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights, the invasion in Lebanon, the attack on the Iraqi nuclear power plant—were these not unilateral measures? Not gross violations of Camp David?

And now, when the peace carousel has started to move, the Israeli Government plans to build even more settlements. The plans to do this just now show that the Israelis have no sincere intentions to bring about peace. Every new settlement is a thorn in the flesh of the Palestinians and will only further fan the people's wrath and the resistance against the occupants.

The Israelis should not continuously establish new faits accomplis. What kind of a sacrifice would it be to renounce the settlements, if this were to prevent further rivers of blood?

DER SPIEGEL: The popular uprising, the intifadah...

Mubarak: ...this is the catchword: The intifadah cannot stop as long as the Palestinians do not have the feeling that Israel will give them freedom, that they will be masters in their own house.

No one, I repeat, no one can stop the intifadah, neither the Israelis with their weapons nor the PLO, because the popular uprising in the occupied territories is not remote-controlled from the outside, as some assume. It is much more: the spontaneous reaction of a desperate population.

Give these people hope, let them feel that life will be better for them, that the occupation will not last. This applies to the West Bank in the same way as to the Gaza Strip, and, of course, also to Jerusalem.

DER SPIEGEL: Jerusalem is a particularly sensitive problem. Is it not true that the Palestinian flag must also flutter over the Arab eastern part of the city? Can Jerusalem not be both the capital city of Israel and of the State of Palestine?

Mubarak: The eastern part to be the capital city of Palestine and the western part the capital city of Israel? Well, I am aware that every people wants to hoist its flag in its capital city. This must be negotiated, and I do not want to anticipate such negotiations. I think, however, that the holy sites of all three religions based on revelations must be accessible to everyone.

DER SPIEGEL: Should the future Palestinian state be united with Jordan in a confederation? Or do you think this is not necessary?

Mubarak: Frankly, it will not be easy for the young Palestinian state, particularly in the beginning. Therefore, a confederation with Jordan would certainly be a great help.

DER SPIEGEL: Israel is particularly afraid of a Palestinian army, which an independent Palestinian state would probably establish.

Mubarak: I see this differently. An independent Palestinian state will hardly want to afford an expensive army. Therefore, Israel really need not fear a Palestinian Army.

In addition, the best guarantee of security is not tanks and cannons, but a true, honest peace through negotiations, which the Palestinians are striving for and which we support like almost all other Arab countries.

DER SPIEGEL: An important Arab country, Syria, has not recognized the Palestinian state. Does this not give Syria the key to Middle East peace?

Mubarak: The one who only thinks of thwarting the efforts for peace is an opponent of peace and obviously does not want to solve the conflict.

DER SPIEGEL: What happens if Arab opponents of peace activate terrorists, for instance the group around Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] and the renegade PLO officer Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha]?

Mubarak: By God, one has to expect this, of course. Certain groups have certainly made such plans.

DER SPIEGEL: Whom do you mean?

Mubarak: I do not want to give any names, but there is a group that wanted to let 'Arafat speak at the UN General Assembly in New York in order to then start a large-scale terrorist campaign and set public opinion against the Palestinians, even though 'Arafat is—and I say this for the hundredth time—the most moderate Palestinian leader I know.

These criminal elements, which try to prevent peace, are possibly cooperating with certain Israeli circles—I do not know. However, let us be frank: We must not attribute every terrorist attack to 'Arafat. 'Arafat publicly condemned terrorism.

DER SPIEGEL: Is a statement enough?

Mubarak: 'Arafat is speaking for the majority, which rejects terrorism as a political instrument. The majority is important, not the extremist minority. This is also the case in democratic Western countries. We saw how far these terrorist actions can go during the hijacking of the Italian luxury liner "Achille Lauro": Yasir 'Arafat learned of this only when the ship had already docked. He was taken by surprise.

DER SPIEGEL: But by people within his PLO.

Mubarak: By an insignificant minority. He wanted to pass sentence on the perpetrators in Tunis, therefore we let them go. However, the Americans intercepted the plane and 'Arafat was not able to bring the terrorists to trial.

DER SPIEGEL: However, what is the world to think of the fact that PLO leaders such as Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] now stand up and announce that they will continue the armed struggle against military targets in Israel?

Mubarak: I do not consider such statements overly important; what can an Abu Iyad do, after all? The decision of the Palestinian majority is what counts and that is it. Of course, I always advise the Palestinians to speak with one voice because in Israel there are people who are practically waiting for such thoughtless statements. Statements saying, for instance, that after their liberation the West Bank and the Gaza Strip must be stepping stones to the "liberation" of all of Palestine, that is, the destruction of Israel, do not serve peace.

DER SPIEGEL: You ask Europe for a contribution to peace. What can the EC states do?

Mubarak: As of 1993, Western Europe will be a big economic power. The Europeans have good relations with Israel and the United States but also with the Arabs. It is in their interest to promote peace in the Middle East. Because due to the geographical neighborhood alone, the events in our region have a direct effect on Europe. Europe's opinion is important in Washington, but also in Israel.

DER SPIEGEL: Compared with other key Middle East countries, Egypt is an oasis of calm. Nevertheless, here, too, the signs of extremism veiled in Islam are becoming more frequent....

Mubarak: ...Extremists, and not only religious ones, exist all over the world, in Italy, in France, and in other countries, too. When there are cases of extremism in Egypt, they are always immediately blown up.

DER SPIEGEL: The cases are quite spectacular.

Mubarak: We are still an oasis of stability. In contrast to other countries in our immediate neighborhood, we live in a democratic country. Here the newspapers may write

what they want and sometimes they carry exaggerated reports that are only the results of wild imagination. I do not deny that there are terrorists, but I point out that they are opposed all over the country.

DER SPIEGEL: In foreign policy you are very much committed to finding a solution to the Middle East problem. Do you see a bright spot in this respect for 1989?

Mubarak: I hope that 1989 will bring the beginning of a new phase, it may bring the breakthrough to peace.

DER SPIEGEL: You have expressed readiness to visit Israel. Will this trip take place soon?

Mubarak: In principle, I am willing to undertake such a journey. Whether and when it will take place depends, however, on whether it can be ensured that it will yield solid results, which will facilitate a just, comprehensive, and, above all, final solution to the Palestinian conflict.

DER SPIEGEL: Mr President, thank you for this interview.

Soviet Economic Delegation Arrives in Cairo

NC0301064889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2330 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—An economic delegation led by Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR's State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, arrived in Cairo from Moscow tonight on a 1-week visit to Egypt.

The Soviet official stated that he will discuss with Egyptian officials the means of increasing the trade volume between Egypt and the Soviet Union and will sign the protocol on trade cooperation (?for the current year). He added that the Soviet minister of foreign economic relations will arrive in Cairo in March to attend the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Soviet committee, which will discuss bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Dr 'Adil al-Jarihi, first under secretary of the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, was on hand to receive the delegation at the airport. He said that the volume of trade between Egypt and the Soviet Union will reach 700 million accounting pounds sterling, 160 million more than last year. He added that the protocol will be signed on 9 January during the delegation's visit to Cairo.

The Egyptian official said that the Soviet delegation will conclude a number of barter contracts with Egyptian companies, to a total of 300 million accounting pounds sterling. Thus, the trade volume between the two countries will reach 1 billion accounting pounds sterling this year. He added that the bilateral trade exchange this year will include exports of non-traditional goods to the Soviet Union, such as the products from Khan al-Khalili Bazaar, leather goods, and ready-made clothes.

Economic Talks Open

NC0301171489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1457 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—Economic talks between Egypt and the Soviet Union opened today. The Egyptian side is led by 'Adil al-Jarihi, first under secretary at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, and the Soviet side by Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR's State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. Mordvinov is currently visiting Cairo at the head of a Soviet economic delegation.

The talks, which will continue through 11 January, will deal with bilateral economic cooperation. The talks also will result in the signing of a trade protocol for 1989 that is expected to total 700 million accounting pounds sterling, an increase of 160 million accounting pounds sterling in comparison to last year's protocol. The two sides also will discuss a number of equal trade deals, amounting to 300 million accounting pounds sterling.

Agreement on Exchange Rate

NC0401230489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, said today that Egypt and the Soviet Union have agreed to gradually change the exchange rate for pounds sterling which the two countries are using now for accounting in order to encourage Egyptian exports to Soviet markets while taking into account that this should not affect the cost of Egyptian imports from the Soviet Union. He noted that the current rate for the pound sterling used for accounting is estimated now at around two Egyptian pounds.

In a statement he made today following his meeting with the Soviet economic delegation currently visiting Cairo and led by Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR's State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, the economy minister said that the new Soviet-Egyptian trade protocol for 1989 will be signed on Monday.

The total for this protocol is expected to reach around 700 million pounds sterling, that is 130 million pounds sterling more than last year. He added that the new protocol will provide for an increase in Egyptian exports to the Soviet Union and also Soviet exports to Egypt, particularly of important commodities such as timber, paper, frozen fish, machines, and equipment.

In a statement following his meeting with the Soviet delegation, Dr Yusri Mustafa said that the joint ministerial committee for economic cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union will hold its meetings in Cairo next March under the chairmanship of the two countries' ministers of economy and trade. During these

meetings, the two countries will discuss the establishment of a number of joint investment companies to finance projects in Egypt and the Soviet Union.

They will also discuss the participation of Soviet companies in the modernization of some Egyptian factories and the participation of some Egyptian companies in the implementation of work in the Soviet Union.

It is worth noting that the meetings of the Egyptian-Soviet technical committee began in Cairo on Tuesday evening under the chairmanship of 'Adil al-Jarihi, first under secretary of the Ministry of Economy, and Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR's state committee for foreign economic relations. Committee meetings are scheduled to continue until next Wednesday.

Opposition Parties Condemn U.S. 'Air Piracy'

NC0501155989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1534 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—The Secretariat of the Egyptian opposition parties condemned today the act of air piracy committed by two U.S. planes against two Libyan aircraft during their flight in international airspace.

A statement issued after the Secretariat meeting said that the U.S. aggression raises questions about the extent of regional security in view of the massing of the U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean and about how serious the United States is in its endeavors to secure a just peace in the region.

Afro-Asian Committee Denounces Downing of Planes

NC0601115489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—The Egyptian Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, headed by Ahmad Hamrush, has denounced the shooting down of two Libyan aircraft by U.S. aircraft in international waters in the Mediterranean 2 days ago.

In a statement released today, the committee stressed that this incident constitutes a violation of international law and norms. The committee called for wisdom, rationality, and restraint to be exercised so that stability in the region will not be endangered.

Libya

Further Reportage, Comment on Plane Downings

Arab League Meeting Requested

LD0501201989 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi this afternoon received 'Abd al-Ati al-'Ubaydi, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's permanent representative to the league.

It was learned from sources close to the Arab League General Secretariat that the Libyan representative conveyed to Chedli Klibi a message of appreciation and gratitude from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan leaders for the support and solidarity expressed by the General Secretariat following the recent U.S. attack.

The meeting also considered the Jamahiriyah's request for an urgent session of the League's Council to consider the U.S. threats against Libya. According to Arab diplomatic sources, this request is expected to be passed by the General Secretariat to all member-states in order to acquire their agreement and to specify the final date for the emergency session of the Arab League Council.

'Terrorist Aggression' Denounced

LD0501175389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Jan (JANA)—The Council of Delegates of the Arab People's Congress Permanent Secretariat held a meeting this morning during which the barbaric U.S. imperialist aggression against two Libyan Arab reconnaissance planes was discussed.

The council denounced this organized international terrorist aggression and called for the massing of Arab capabilities to confront the premeditated U.S. aggression through coordination among all organizations and parties that are congress members. The gathering urged all Arab countries to shoulder their pan-Arab responsibility toward this U.S. aggression, which was aimed at the Arab nation from the Ocean to the Gulf.

JANA on 'Military Aggression'

LD0501191289 Tripoli JANA in English 1840 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina al-Nar [January] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The U.S. threats against Great Jamahiriyah are intensifying nowadays to the extent of the carrying out of a pre-meditated military aggression yesterday against Great Jamahiriyah which was represented by an assault from aircraft of the U.S. airforce against two Libyan aircraft which were on a normal reconnaissance mission over international waters and shooting them down.

This aggression comes within the context of the escalation of the U.S. campaign of threats against the Libyan Arab people using the Al-Rabitah medicine plant as an excuse for aggression.

What is happening nowadays confirms that such campaign is brought about because Great Jamahiriyah is the sole free voice that rejects domination and control. It is a country in which prosperity prevails, man's happiness is achieved and the development and social plans are decided by popular will. In that, Great Jamahiriyah

depends upon manipulating its own potentials in accordance with its dependent plan drafted by the people's congresses—the owner of wealth, authority and weapons in the Jamahiri society—and are carried out by the people's committees.

The U.S. Government is hostile towards Jamahiriyah and considers the Libyan Arab people and the leader of the revolution its fiercest foe and search for weak excuses to aim its aggression against Great Jamahiriyah.

The U.S. claims regarding the Libyan Arab medicine plant at Al-Rabitah have been proven false. Most Western firms, on many occasions, have confirmed that they had nothing to do with the plant and with all U.S. claims. They revealed that the pictures America claims possession of are in fact nothing but pictures of the development industrial fortresses built by the Libyan Arab people, by its sons' arms, to step out of the period of backwardness into prosperity and progress.

Great Jamahiriyah, in the grand green document of human rights in the era of the masses, confirmed the banning of the Jamahiri society to lethal nuclear, germs warfare, chemical weapons and all weapons of total destruction—as Article 24 of the document states: "Sons of the Jamahiri society call for the cancellation of atomic, germ and chemical weapons and the means of total destruction and the destruction of what is stockpiled of them and call for ridding mankind from atomic plants and their dangerous wastes."

As we confirm that the falsehood of the American excuses for aggression was proven to the world at large, we indicate that the downing of the 2 Libyan reconnaissance aircraft by the American air-force on board the aircraft carrier USS "Kennedy" in the Mediterranean was a pre-meditated military aggression in which 5 U.S. military aircraft have taken part and cannot be separated from the package of various U.S. conspiracies against Great Jamahiriyah no matter how hard the U.S. Government tried to claim otherwise.

What is amazing here is the U.S. claim of self-defence in an area thousands of kilometers away from it, at a time it does not approve of the legitimate right of self-defence to others to defend themselves, their territorial waters and air space.

We ask: By what right America is present here, after it became clear the falsehood of the American claims and pretences for which it had amassed military vessels in the Mediterranean sea?

Although we have a legitimate right in self-defence, America has no right to confiscate the geography of the world and its seas for its own selfish interest on the account of the other nations. Is it conceivable that America claims it is acting in self-defence while imposing its influence over a region thousands of kilometers away from its territories?

'Masses' March to Al-Rabitah Chemical Plant

LD0501182989 Tripoli JANA in English 1815 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina al-Nar [January] 5th, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of Zintan Basic People's Congress have marched to the Al-Rabitah pharmaceutical factory and have held an emergency session to discuss the U.S. threats against the people of Great Al-Jamahiriyah. They have also staged a sit-in there closing ranks with the doctors and nurses at this factory.

These masses have reconfirmed that this factory has been established according with the resolutions of the people's congresses to achieve self-sufficiency in the sphere of medicine production.

These masses have reaffirmed that the U.S. threats will not intimidate us. They will make us more resolved reaffirming the validity of our principles and orientations. This pharmaceutical factory is one of our civilized achievements.

These masses have reconfirmed that we are free in our land, sea, air space and that these threats will be regarded as an interference in our affairs. We don't accept this interference. We announce our challenge to the leader of international terrorism and are prepared to die for our civilized achievements and our immortal Jamahiriyah.

Syrian Minister Calls for U.S. Medicines Boycott

LD0501194089 Tripoli JANA in English 1816 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina al-Nar [January] 5 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Dr. M. al-Shatti, the minister of health of sisterly Syria, who is currently on a visit to great Al-Jamahiriyah accompanied by a Syrian delegation, has reconfirmed that the Al-Rabitah pharmaceutical plant is a civilized achievement that will contribute in achieving medical security for the Arab citizens.

He points out that the U.S. wants to deprive Arabs of medical security.

Meanwhile, he and his delegation have expressed their admiration over the medical accomplishments and medical capabilities in great Al-Jamahiriyah.

During an interview with him by the radio of the Great Arab Homeland—the voice of the revolutionary committees—Dr. al-Shatti has called on all the Arabs to boycott U.S. pharmaceuticals and goods should any aggression on great Al-Jamahiriyah be launched.

Denouncing U.S. provocations and threats, he has expressed his great admiration on the stances assumed by the masses of the Libyan Arab people who have marched to the above factory closing ranks with the Arab, Africans and Asians living in Great Al-Jamahiriyah to defend this scientific and humanitarian achievement.

Meanwhile, he has expressed the readiness of the Syrian delegation and all the Arab delegations that have visited this factory to participate in this sit-in and defend the Libyan Al-Rabitah pharmaceutical plant against any U.S. aggression.

Minister Departs 5 Jan

LD0601085089 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Jan (JANA)—Syrian Health Minister Dr Muhammad Iyad al-Shatti and the delegation that accompanied him left yesterday after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

PLO Dissident Muragha Arrives on Visit 4 Jan

LD0501085189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Jan (JANA)—Brother Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] arrived here yesterday evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. In a statement to a JANA correspondent following his arrival he reaffirmed that the will of the Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah will not submit, will not surrender, and will remain strong in confronting U.S. imperialism.

He also said that the Great Jamahiriyah will remain a steadfast strong bastion and that aggression will only make it firmer and strengthen its conviction.

PLO's 'Isam al-Qadi Arrives on Visit 5 Jan

LD0601102489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0947 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Jan 89 (JANA)—Brother 'Isam al-Qadi, the secretary-general of the Vanguards of the People's Liberation Organization "Al-Sa'iqah," [and head of the PLO Military Department] arrived in Tripoli last night on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

State of Alert Over Fears of Israeli Attack

PM0501164089 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 4-10 Jan 89 p 12

[Salih Qallab report: "Libya Expects an Israeli Attack"]

[Excerpts] For the second time in a few months the United States has raised the fabricated story of the existence of a chemical weapons plant in Libya. Washington has described the plant as one of the biggest and most dangerous chemical weapons plants in the Third World and has threatened to resort to military action in the near future. [passage omitted]

In view of the U.S. threats when talking about the chemical plant, the Libyan Government has declared a maximum state of alert as a precaution against an aggression similar to that launched by U.S. aircraft on Libyan towns and positions about 2 years ago.

It also conveyed to certain Arab states the information in its possession concerning the possibility of an imminent U.S. attack.

According to AL-MAJALLAH's information, a non-Arab state on good terms with Libya has supplied the Libyan Government with information to the effect that Israel is preparing for a military strike against Libya under the pretext of destroying the chemical plant in question and that the Israeli plan is now ready and only awaits the green light from the U.S. Administration.

AL-MAJALLAH sources say that the Israeli strike against Libya was scheduled to take place on the eve of the Israeli elections early last November and that, in addition to the so-called chemical plant, a main target of the strike was to be a house that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat used as a headquarters in Tripoli and that was in the past used as a guest palace.

This information was passed to the PLO at the time. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Nouakchott University Students Resume Classes

AB0201170689 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Nouakchott, Jan 2 (AFP)—University students in the Mauritanian capital resumed classes here on Monday [2 January] after a week of strikes, an official here said. A reliable source added that some dozens of students arrested last Thursday had been returned to their studies after signing a commitment to good conduct.

Weekend reports said that between 20 and 60 people had been detained.

The source added that student demands for health cover, transport and library facilities had been met, but the government had turned down a request for bursaries for all undergraduates. At a meeting with student leaders last Wednesday, Education Minister Hasni Ould Didi dismissed their call for grants all round as utopian.

The government has also charged that students were "manipulated by political groups" and "anti-national activists." Half the university's 4,000 students are currently on scholarships.

Strike Continues After Deadline

AB0501181389 Paris AFP in French 1532 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 5 Jan (AFP)—Three days after the vice-chancellor of the University of Nouakchott told AFP that the 10-day strike at the university had ended, nothing can confirm that the situation has returned to normal, observers noted.

While most of the students are still absent, classes, continue in a slow manner with only a few students present. There is, however, not the least sign of opposition on the university campus, where law enforcement vehicles are parked in front of the buildings.

University officials said class attendance is low because holidays begin on Monday. They emphasized that it was not compulsory for the students to attend classes. Most of the students reportedly preferred to extend their holidays in order to visit their homes, some of which are more than 1,000 km from Nouakchott.

The students regarded by the authorities as the hardcore leaders were released after they had been detained for questioning last week. Their detention has disorganized the movement, which authorities believe was politically motivated.

The official press said the leaders of the movement are "trained in the school of treason," and called on the students to act in the interest of the "school, which must not be the refuge of agitators or an arena in the struggle for influence."

Negotiations between the authorities and student representatives bogged down on the students' main demand: the granting of scholarships to all students and the renewal of the scholarship of any student who fails. This demand was deemed utopian by the government.

Other demands, such as the creation of a medical center and a library at the university and the provision of transportation to the students, however, received a favorable answer from the authorities.

The government has made it known that it will not oppose the students' demand for the creation of a trade union to represent them, arguing that the students were solely responsible for the failure of their trade union during the 1986 congress, when it was to be created. Some observers in Nouakchott believe that for all these reasons, the students will have to wait until classes resume on 21 January, when the holidays end, to have a clear idea of the situation.

Meanwhile, it is possible that the dismissal of the university rector and his replacement by the former director of higher education, Mr Mouamed Lemine Ould Kettab, could clear the way for a new policy to manage this university, whose creation in 1982 was seen as a major challenge.

Morocco

Further on Talks With Polisario Delegation

Polisario Envoy Cited

LD0501183189 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Excerpts] On the Marrakesh talks on Western Sahara, so far three rounds of talks have taken place between Moroccan officials and the delegation of the Polisario Front. [passage omitted]

There are some indications from the Polisario Front. Carmen Bader [correspondent] has talked with (Baba Sayyed), the Polisario representative in France, who arrived from Algiers only this morning with this new information. Mr (Baba) Sayyed is the brother of Bachir Mustapha Sayyed, who leads the Saharan delegation in Marrakesh.

[Sayyed] After 13 years of war, the fact that this contact has taken place already constitutes an important victory for the two parties.

[Badar] Has there been a climate of understanding or were there two monologues?

[Sayyed] A dialogue has already started under normal conditions and in an atmosphere that allows us to hope that the two parties one day will reach a quick solution.

It is very difficult to believe that the Western Sahara problem can find a solution in 2 days, despite the willingness of the two parties. So what should be stressed is that this meeting will create a climate—a climate of calm and trust between the two parties—and, we hope, later will lead to further meetings to be held as frequently as possible and which will reach an agreement on the 5-point peace plan and the obstacles that must be overcome.

[Bader] Has the king made proposals for a solution that were not provided by the UN peace plan?

[Sayyed] As you know, one talks about everything in a discussion—about essential, important matters, but also about elementary matters. That, by definition, is a discussion, and this one is characterized by being free. The two parties did not put forward prior conditions, so they are able to discuss everything. Let us hope that this will remain so.

[Bader] Have they discussed the referendum?

[Sayyed] Yes, absolutely. They discussed the origins of the conflict, the referendum, and particularly the UN peace plan.

[Bader] So the indirect talks under the aegis of the United Nations will continue?

[Sayyed] I think that we now have come to believe so, after having reached agreement on the two points that concern [words indistinct] the electorate and the question raised in the context of the referendum. The necessity for direct talks has become more imperative. It will be very difficult to make a U-turn after direct talks.

Talks with King Continue

LD0501201489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The peace dialogue between Morocco and Western Sahara is being strengthened through successive meetings between the Saharan delegation and Moroccan officials. The latest news is that a second meeting today brought together the Saharan delegation and Morocco's King Hassan II. Correspondent Tayeb Bouterfis has the details:

[Begin Tayeb Bouterfis recording] The news from Marrakesh, in the Moroccan Kingdom, is that the Saharan delegation, which has been in Morocco since Tuesday, has held three rounds of talks with Moroccan Government officials. One such round brought together King Hassan II and the Saharan delegation, led by Mr Bachir Mustafa Sayyed, member of the Polisario Front Central Committee, which lasted for 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Press reports pointed out that nothing has leaked out regarding the contents of the three rounds of negotiations and affirmed that it is unknown whether the two sides agreed to hold more sessions.

Saharan sources mentioned that the talks are taking place in good conditions and in an atmosphere characterized by seriousness.

Moroccan circles say that the talks are focused on discussing the means to handle the Saharan conflict, which has been going on for 13 years, and on carrying out a referendum on self-determination in accordance with the resolutions of the UN and the OAU.

Regarding a question on whether the Moroccan-Saharan meetings would be crowned with a joint communique, it was reported that this is very likely. [passage omitted]

It was learned a few moments ago, quoting a Saharan source in Algiers, that the Saharan delegation held a second meeting with Moroccan King Hassan II.

The same source added that an atmosphere of mutual respect prevailed at the meeting, that the talks covered the means to find a solution to the Saharan conflict, and that the Saharan delegation toured the city of Marrakesh and left Morocco after its meeting with Morocco's King Hassan II.

Sudan

Government Condemns Downing of Libyan Planes

LD0501192189 Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan, SUNA—Sudan has condemned U.S.A. downing two the [as received] Libyan planes and urged the international community to support Libya and to preserve security and peace.

The Foreign Ministry in a press statement released here today expressed regret over the American threats to Libya and called on the international and regional organizations including the Arab League to confront the aggression against Libya.

The statement asserted Sudan support to the invitation extended to the Security Council to condemn the American aggression.

Al-Mahdi, Al-Mirghani, Al-Turabi Talks Confirmed

EA0401204589 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Jan—AL-SIYASAH has confirmed yesterday's AL-ADWA' report that a meeting took place yesterday between Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister and head of the Ummah Party; and Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, the secretary general of the National Islamic Front. AL-SIYASAH said they discussed the political situation in particular and the situation in the country in general. The paper said few details were available on the proceedings.

The paper quoted Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, member of the State Council and secretary general designate of the Ummah Party, as having said that the party Political and Executive Bureaus had formed special committees to investigate, analyze, and study the matters that have recently dominated the political arena [words indistinct].

The committees were ordered to submit their reports and recommendations to the party's General Secretariat early next week. He said a joint meeting of the party Political and Executive Bureaus had been held to study and evaluate the current political situation in the country with a view to finding ways of emerging from the present crises in a patriotic and amicable manner.

Minister Denies Formation of New Government

JN0501113589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Doha, 5 Jan (WAKH)—Salah 'Abd al-Salam, Sudanese minister for Presidency affairs [title as received], has said there is presently no intention to form a new government in Sudan despite the withdrawal of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] from the current government.

In a statement published in the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB today, the Sudanese minister said some ministers in the current government were entrusted with running the ministries that were run by DUP ministers until consultations are held to appoint new ministers who will occupy the vacant portfolios.

Concerning peace efforts in the south and whether they will continue based on the DUP initiative, Salah 'Abd al-Salam asserted that these efforts will continue based on all previous initiatives, including the DUP initiative.

Regarding the reported plots and coup attempts against the democratic situation in Sudan, he explained that the Sudanese Government is currently working to reveal all plots and that some followers of former President Ja'far Numayri were arrested. Investigations are being conducted and any person connected with the attempts to abort democracy in the country will be arrested, he added.

Islamic Front Expects New Coalition Without DUP
EA0401112389 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 4 Jan 89

[text] Khartoum, 4 January—The National Islamic Front, NIF, supports the shrinking of constitutional and executive bodies in the country such as the Supreme Council, Council of Ministers, and the regional governments, internal trade minister and NIF political affairs secretary, Dr 'Ali al-Haj, announced yesterday.

The minister told reporters that the current situation of the government following the withdrawal of the Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, would continue and the matter will be presented before the Constituent Assembly to consider the formation of a new government that would comprise the Ummah Party, the NIF, Sudan National Party and the southern parties participating in the current coalition government.

He denied the existence of political consultation between his party and the DUP at present. The NIF official described the timing of the pulling-out of the DUP from the coalition as "unjustifiable".

The government will work for the convocation of the proposed constitutional conference and that preparations are currently underway to form a committee in this connection, Al-Haj said.

He further indicated that the government will set up a committee to make contacts with the rebel SPLM. He did not elaborate.

Attorney General's Advisers Submit Resignations
LD0501190889 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 5 (SUNA)—The legal advisors of the Attorney General have submitted today their resignation to state minister at the Ministry of Justice Hafiz al-Shaykh al-Zaki. The resignation came in [words indistinct] with the judges who earlier resigned in protest against the violation of judicial power independence by the executive power.

Legal advisor Dr. Yasin 'Umar stated here today that all the legal advisors in Khartoum and central region resigned and contacts are currently underway to collect the resignation of the legal advisors in the other regions.

Meanwhile, the high judicial council discussed here today the resignation of judges and ways of holding their problems.

"A meeting will be held next Saturday to continue the discussion," Chief Justice Muhammad Mirghani said.

DUP's Al-Mirghani Meets Ethiopian Ambassador
LD0401114589 Khartoum SUNA in English 1024 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 4, (SUNA)—The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) patron Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani yesterday met with the Ethiopian ambassador to Sudan and reviewed with him peace efforts in the region, DUP mouthpiece AL-ITTIHAD reported today.

Tunisia

Foreign Ministry Denounces Libyan Plane Downing

LD0501133389 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] An official spokesman of the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed Tunisia's strong denunciation of the shooting down of two Libyan planes by the U.S. Air Force, terming it a serious escalation which disturbs peace and security in the region and threatens the atmosphere of detente in international relations.

He affirmed Tunisia's solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people at this time of their difficult predicament. He renewed the call to abide by the nonuse of force and to avert any aggravation of the situation.

Libyan Envoy Comments on Talks with Ben Ali

LD0501142789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] This morning at the Republican Palace in Carthage, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the high commissioner of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to Tunisia.

In a statement he said that he had conveyed to the head of state a message from his brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, relating to the current events in the region, particularly the U.S. threat to the Libyan Arab people, which materialized yesterday in the downing by the U.S. Navy of two Libyan aircraft on a reconnaissance patrol.

'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi said that the president expressed solidarity with the Libyan Arab people and a readiness to make efforts to avoid more tension and confrontation in our region.

'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi also expressed to the head of state, in the name of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and of the Libyan Arab people, profound appreciation and gratitude for the attitude of Tunisia—its president, government, and people—vis-a-vis the U.S. confrontation with Libya.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche; Habib Ammar, minister of state and private adviser to the president of the republic; and Abdelhamid Escheikh, minister of foreign affairs.

PDRY

Foreign Minister Expresses Support for Libya

LD0101162189 Tripoli JANA English 1423 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Aden, January 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The foreign minister of South Yemen 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali reaffirmed the solidarity and support of the Arab people in South Yemen with the Libyan Arab people in its courageous resistance against all American imperialist plots.

This came during his reception of the acting secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau to Aden.

Ministers Condemn U.S. 'Aggressive Act'

EA0501205789 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Numan, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The Council discussed a number of subjects and reports on its agenda.

The Council expressed strong condemnation and denunciation of the latest U.S. aggression against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and its fraternal Arab people. It condemned the flagrant attack by U.S. planes yesterday morning and the shooting down of two Libyan aircraft. The Council expressed the PDRY's concern over this aggressive act, which ignores international law and international norms and conventions.

The Council pointed out that the attack by the U.S. fighter planes, which took off from the U.S. aircraft carrier "USS Kennedy" Wednesday to shoot down two Libyan aircraft, must be considered a dangerous, aggressive act which threatens international security and peace.

The Council reiterated the PDRY's support for the fraternal Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in its steadfastness in the face of various aggressive provocations. The Council stressed the importance of strengthening Arab solidarity in the face of dangers threatening the national sovereignty, legitimate interests, and just causes of our Arab peoples. [passage omitted]

Qatar

'Deep Concern' Expressed Over Plane Downing

JN0501180989 Manama WAKH in English 1648 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Doha, Jan 5 (GNA)—The State of Qatar has expressed deep concern over the downing of two Libyan planes over the Mediterranean and affirmed its solidarity with the brotherly Libyan people and called on all parties to refrain from using force of arms, an official Foreign Ministry source said this afternoon.

"The State of Qatar, regretting the downing of the Libyan planes and expressing profound concern over the seriousness of the military confrontation between the United States and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, regards the incident as a serious escalation of tension which may have dire consequences on security and peace in the Arab region, constitute a grave threat to improvement in international relations and undermine the prevalent trend of resolving international disputes by peaceful means," the official source said in a statement to QATAR NEWS AGENCY.

The State of Qatar reiterated its solidarity with the brotherly Libyan people in these difficult circumstances, called on all parties to maintain self-restraint and refrain from resorting to force of arms and appealed to the international community to intensify its efforts to stave off any developments that may harm world peace and security.

Fatah Member Salah Khalaf Arrives 31 Dec

JN3112145688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Doha, 31 Dec (WAKH)—Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, arrived here today on a visit to Qatar to address a speech rally tomorrow to mark the 24th anniversary of the launch of Palestinian armed struggle.

Khalaf, a Fatah Central Committee member, told QNA upon arrival that he will acquaint Qatari officials with the latest Palestinian developments and PLO moves on the world scene as well as the escalating uprising in the occupied land.

Abu Iyad declared the Palestinians' categorical rejection of any suggestions calling for an end to the uprising. The uprising should be pursued until national independence is realized, said Khalaf.

Meets With Amir 1 Jan

JN0101120489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Doha, 1 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, received here this morning Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member.

QNA said that they discussed the situation in the Palestinian arena, the latest developments pertaining to the Palestine question, as well as the Arab and Palestinian political moves on the international level and at the United Nations to bring about a recognition and a realization of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

They also discussed the situation in the occupied territories and the importance of supporting and escalating the heroic and valiant uprising being staged by the

Palestinian people against the hateful Israeli occupation to achieve national independence and bring about the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian territory.

Leaves After 4-Day Visit

JN0301104689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Doha, 3 Jan (WAKH)—Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf left Doha today following a 4-day visit to Qatar.

During the visit, the Palestinian official acquainted Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and a number of Qatari officials with recent developments in the Palestine question, the situation in the occupied territories, and efforts being exerted to achieve a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis.

He also participated in the activities of the Palestinian cultural week organized by the PLO office in Doha on the 24th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, which falls on 1 January every year.

Saudi Arabia

INA Cites Lloyds on 'Explosion' in Oil Tanker

JN0501185389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] London, 5 Jan (INA)—Britain's Lloyds Insurance Company has said that eight crew members, including the captain and engineer, of the Saudi oil tanker "Saghirah," which caught fire today, are missing.

In a cable to the INA office in London, Lloyds noted that helicopters, in cooperation with another ship, were able to rescue 26 persons from the tanker's 34-man crew. Lloyds added that the Saudi tanker is still on fire and two Lloyds recovery ships had moved toward the Saudi tanker to help it.

Lloyds added that the fire in the Saudi oil tanker, which was on a voyage from Al-Fujayrah Port to Sa'ud Port, caused a flow of light crude oil from it across the Arabian Gulf waters for a distance of 2 miles.

Lloyds did not mention the cause of the fire in the 20,817-tonne tanker, which was built in 1961.

In a subsequent report tonight, Lloyds said that the fire began in the pumping compartment of the Saudi tanker "Saghirah" following an explosion there. Lloyds added that six crew members were killed in the incident. Lloyds earlier said that the tanker has a 34-man crew.

British Foreign Secretary Holds News Conference

LD0401203089 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1740 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Riyadh, 4 January, SPA—Mr Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Office and Commonwealth secretary, has stated that the Kingdom's foreign policy, under the leadship of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, is characterized by wisdom and moderation. His excellency said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was and still is an important and active member of the international community.

The British Foreign Office and Commonwealth secretary also described the relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Britian as strong and constructive in all fields and said that they are an example to be followed.

He expressed his consideration for the level of economic cooperation reached between his country and the Kingdom, indicating that the agreement on economic balance constitutes an integral part of the Yamamah Program, which his government is committed to implementing and ensuring its success.

In a statement given at the outset of his press conference today in Riyadh, Mr Geoffrey Howe added that the Yamamah Program would lead to an increase in contacts and cooperation in economic, scientific, academic, and cultural fields.

His excellency also indicated that the Middle East region is Britian's third largest export market after North America and the EEC. He went on to say that his country exports about 4 billion pounds sterling worth of goods to the Middle East per year.

The British foreign secretary welcomed the GCC's efforts to coordinate regional political, economic, and security stances, reaffirming that the GCC member states constitute a force calling for moderation and stability in the arena of international struggle. His excellency said that last June the EEC and the GCC signed the first phase of a cooperation agreement, which "I hope will lead to the conclusion of a trade agreement constituting the framework for firm economic cooperation between our states without inflicting damage on the industries in the Gulf or in the EEC member states."

His excellency the British foreign and Commonwealth secretary underlined the important role played by the Kingdom and the Islamic Conference Organization with regard to the Afghan problem, pointing out that the Soviet Union's announcement to end its unlawful occupation of Afghanistan is a positive development in this regard. His excellency reaffirmed his country's full backing for the UN attempts and efforts in the negotiations between Iraq and Iran to find a just and permanent settlement between the two states. His excellency the British foreign secretary warned against the spread of chemical weapons and described them as a source of

horror for mankind. He also warned against the dangers of the spread of nuclear weapons, pointing out that the agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons will remain a protective measure against their spread.

In this context he called on all the countries of the world to join this agreement, pointing to his country's welcoming of the Kingdom's joining this agreement last year. His excellency praised the Saudi aid, assistance, and participation in international relief efforts, the clearest example of which was the Kingdom's assistance to Sudan, which was recently hit by floods.

His excellency also confirmed his country's support for the Kingdom's constructive efforts to convince the parties to the conflict in Lebanon to show moderation. His excellency said that Britain gives (?top) priority to the search for a peaceful settlement to the Palestine problem. He pointed out that his country is exerting active efforts toward the settlement on the basis of the two principles included in the Venice Declaration: security for all the states of the region and the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Geoffrey Howe welcomed the steps announced by the Palestine National Council and the statements made by the PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Stockholm and Geneva at the end of last month, which allowed the United States to open a dialogue with the PLO.

After reading his press statement, he answered journalists questions. He described his talks with His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, as constructive and effective. Regarding his excellency's comment on Israel's rejection of the peaceful measures and initiatives presented by the PLO, his excellency reaffirmed that his country has urged Israeli officials to respond to the PLO initiatives and expressed his belief that it is in Israel's interest to respond in kind to the PLO's offer.

He expressed his anxiety in this connection over the living conditions of the citizens in the West Bank and the occupied territories. He condemned the bad and brutal treatment the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are suffering at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces. He stressed the necessity of respecting the rights of the Palestinian people according to the Geneva convention, which stipulates the necessity of respecting human rights.

Meets With King Fahd

LD0401225789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Al-Dammam, 4 Jan (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God safeguard him, received in his office this evening his excellency the British foreign and Commonwealth secretary, Geoffrey Howe, and the accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, His excellency the Saudi ambassador to Britain, Nasir al-Manqur, and the British ambassador to the Kingdom, Mr Stephen Egerton. [passage omitted]

SPA Source on Responsibility Toward Lebanon

LD3012180688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1620 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh, 30 Dec (SPA)—Commenting on a report published by a Lebanese paper today, saying that Washington had empowered Riyadh to deal with the Lebanese issue, a responsible source told SPA: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not need authority from anyone to carry out its fraternal duties toward its brothers and in the interests of the Arab nation and its causes. The Kingdom starts from the premise of a constant conviction of the need to work to consolidate the foundations of peace in the whole Arab region.

The source concluded saying: The Kingdom will continue its sincere efforts with its brothers until sisterly Lebanon achieves the security and peace it desires, and the Kingdom welcomes any good effort which contributes to this.

United Arab Emirates

Source Condemns 'Aggression' Against Libya

JN0501223189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2050 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jan (WAKH)—The UAE has condemned the aggression against the Libyan planes, voiced its solidarity with the Libyan Arab people, and called for self-restraint and for dealing with things prudently.

This came in a statement by a responsible source at the UAE Foreign Ministry and carried by WAM this evening. The source said that the UAE received with grave concern the news on the attack by the U.S. Air Force [as received] against the two Libyan planes over international waters, thus causing them to be downed.

The responsible source added that the UAE condemns this aggression, which it views as unjustified. He went on to say that the UAE considers this aggression a provocative action that will escalate tension in the Mediterranean at a time when the world's states are seeking to bring about a relaxation in international relations to enhance world security and peace.

The responsible source said that while voicing its solidarity with the fraternal Libyan Arab people, the UAE calls for the exercise of self-restraint and for tackling issues prudently to help bring about security, peace, and stability in the Middle East.

British Foreign Secretary Holds News Conference

JN0501160489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jan (WAKH)—British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe has said that his country appreciates the major contribution UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan is making on behalf of regional security and peace.

Speaking at a news conference in Abu Dhabi today, Shaykh Zayid called on Britain to play a special role in promoting a Mideast settlement, given its historical experience in the region.

Howe, who arrived in the UAE on a visit early today as part of a regional tour, said Britain shares the UAE's concern over the serious situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and expressed the urgent need to end the suffering of the Palestinian people there.

The British minister, who has already been to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, reiterated that it is up to Israel to make the next moves in the search for a solution to the Mideast problem, following the PLO's recent encouraging steps. It is important that the recent progress made toward Mideast peace not be put at risk, Sir Geoffrey said. Britain supports any peace overtures in the region, said the foreign secretary, adding that Britain contributed to the recent shift in the American position, leading to the U.S. dialogue with the PLO.

Asked whether he will hold a meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in the UAE this morning, Howe said his tight schedule rules out such a meeting. The British foreign secretary said, however, that he has no preconditions for meeting the Palestinian leader, indicating that PLO statements over the past few weeks have paved the way for further U.K.-Palestinian contacts. He noted that William Weldgrave, minister of state at the British Foreign Office, is due to visit Tunis the next weekend for talks with PLO officials.

Discusses Bilateral Ties

JN0501114289 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, chief of the president's office, received in his office this morning British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, who is currently visiting the country. They reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries and means of promoting and enhancing them. The meeting was attended by the British ambassador to the state.

Meets With Shaykh Zayid

JN0501180089 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 5 (GNA)—UAE President Shykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan today urged regional and world efforts to bring about permanent peace in the Middle East and the Gulf.

Shaykh Zayid also called for helping Lebanon to end its crisis and restore constitutional life to normal.

Shaykh Zayid discussed the issues with British Foreign Secretary Geoffery Howe, who arrived last night as part of a Gulf tour.

"Britain has a special responsibility in helping achieve peace in the region in view of its former links in the area," the president said during the meeting.

Howe said Britain supported U.N. efforts to enforce Security Council Resolution 598 and described his country's ties with the UAE as being characterized by a spirit of friendship and close cooperation.

The meeting was attended by chamberlain of the Presidential Court Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, minister of state for foreign affairs Rashid 'Abdallah, Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid and British Ambassador Michael Tait.

Meets With Defense Minister

JN0501215689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Dubayy, 5 Jan (WAKH)—UAE Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum met with British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe in Dubayy this evening.

They discussed ways to develop the existing cooperation between the UAE and Britain in various spheres. They also reviewed the current situation in the region and ways to establish peace and bring about security in light of the termination of the Iraq-Iran war. In this regard, the two sides affirmed the importance of expediting the process of finding a peaceful solution that will satisfy the two parties to the conflict in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

The conferees also discussed the peace initiatives being proposed to resolve the Palestine question, particularly the peace initiative launched by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the United Nations in Geneva.

WAM said that Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum affirmed the importance of the role of Britain and that of the EC in helping to find ways to ensure the convening of the international Middle East peace conference and in contributing to efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict to bring about peace and security and allow the Palestinian Arab people to regain their rights to their land through the establishment of their independent state.

Saddam Husayn Makes Speech on Army Anniversary
JN0601094689 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0633 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on the 68th anniversary of the Iraqi Army—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O great people; O sons of our glorious Arab nation; O men who are triumphant with right in our valiant Armed Forces; O fighter strugglers in the Popular Army: Today we mark the 68th anniversary of establishing Iraq's valiant army. This anniversary today has a special taste and a distinguished historic value. It comes at a time when it has decisively been affirmed that Iraq has triumphed over the aggression.

It also comes when the Iraqis, with their solid willpower, lengthy patience, unique courage, and prominent efficiency, have imposed peace on their invading, suspect, covetous, rancorous, and backward enemy. We celebrate this splendid anniversary on this glorious day. This anniversary has great meaning in the life of Iraqis and all Arabs.

O brothers, while we enjoy the glories and pick the fruit of victory which you have made with your arms and minds, we recall the past phase and the years of the hard, persistent struggle to protect Iraq—teritory, people, dignity, culture, present, and future—and to stand as an impregnable wall to safeguard the nation from the fire of rancor along the nation's eastern flank which would burn every green thing in this nation and on its own territory.

When the covetous, rancorous, and expansionist Iranian regime gave free rein to its evils and aggressions against Iraq and when it began the war against us in 1980, it imagined—and was deluded by allies and friends inside and outside the region—that Iraq was an easy target for its expansionist scheme and that the Arab nation, after Iraq was occupied, would be easy prey for its ambitions.

Despite the fact that the valiant Iraqis have demonstrated resolve, courage, and readiness for defiance since the very beginning, this rancorous and backward enemy did not relinquish its aggressive program and continued to wage war against us.

Moreover, this enemy did not accept any of the Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions and appeals to end the war, so it lasted 8 years. The enemy was also deluded that your willpower would be weakened some day and that your moral and material capabilities would diminish so that it could achieve its expansionist, evil objectives against Iraq and the Arab homeland.

With God as our witness, we used to caution and warn the enemy throughout the 8 years that its dreams were mere illusions and that both obstinacy and insistence on continuing the war would only inflict on it further losses and catastrophes. We also used to say that with the perpetuation of war, Iraqis would become more resolute, solid, efficient, and capable and that the nation's moral and spiritual depth would be mobilized to its utmost and that this mobilization would bring many good offerings by the nation.

This is because both Iraq and the nation are alongside the right and are waging an honorable battle—the battle of defending land, freedom, honor, security, and holy places. This is also because Iraqis are a living, noble people who belong to a great nation, so neither the Iraqi people nor their nation can accept humiliation.

Here are the results confirming what we were saying. Our expectations have proved correct. Following a blind insistence on war, killing, and destruction for 8 years, the aggressor has undergone a total collapse and sustained grave defeat. Iraq and the Arab nation have triumphed, with Iraq emerging from the arena of struggle lofty, proud, safe, and sound. Meanwhile, the doors of a bright future are opening to Iraq, while receiving admiration from its brothers in the nation.

These brothers have admitted Iraq's struggle and its role in safeguarding pan-Arab security and in protecting the Arab nation. Iraq is also receiving admiration and appreciation from the just ones in the world for the distinguished achievement it has realized in terms of heroic self-defense and continued construction and progress.

Brothers, having now scored victory, thanks be to God, we must assess what we have achieved. We must not do this out of concern for the past, but to entrench the present achievements and explore the future. Brothers, the meaning and importance of what we have achieved becomes apparent when compared with what was expected to take place had not the decisive victory been scored against the evil wave that has been targetting Iraq and the Arab nation for the past 10 years.

The pure blood that has been shed in our sacred battle and the costly sacrifices we have offered have been the impregnable bastion that protected Iraq and the Arab homeland against what has most threatened our nation since the Mogul invasion of Baghdad in the 13th century.

The expansionist, racist, rancorous, and barbaric program that was launched from Iran 10 years ago and that led to the launching of the war against Iraq and aggression against the countries in the region sought to destroy our country and the entire region; fragment it into racist, sectarian statelets engaged in internecine fighting; undermine our civilization; destroy our economic, social, and cultural achievements; return the region to the dark ages

and to the era of servitude; and make Khomeyniism and Zionism the two powers that control the region, with the colonialist forces behind them.

They would thus plunder the region's resources and play havoc with it. This would have happened, God forbid, had it not been for the sacrifices of every honest man. This is what Iraq had expected, and this is what was planned for the countries in the region and was threatening the entire Arab homeland. If we look at the state of affairs in the entire region, we see that it has witnessed retreat and frustration in many fields during the years of the Iranian aggression.

Economic development in the region has halted, or has largely stumbled. Political crises were rife, the security situation greatly deteriorated, and the Palestinian cause experienced momentous threats and received heavy blows.

When the racist, expansionist, and barbaric Iranian program collapsed and the Iranian regime was forced to accept a cease-fire, security and stability returned to the region in a noticeable manner. Hopes rose that the problems of the region will be tackled and that one can proceed forward on the road to development and prosperity. The Palestinian cause made important political gains.

These tangible results after only 5 months since the collapse of the Iranian aggression confirm how much sacrifices were required and needed to confront this evil aggression, how much steadfastness was required and needed, and how much determination was required and needed to protect our country, our existence, our present and future, and our legitimate right to development.

All this was required and needed to safeguard the existence of the Arab nation and to keep the door open to it to develop and advance.

These historical deductions are not only an Iraqi viewpoint and we are not the only ones to affirm this. The live and mature consciences in our nation have said this, repeated this, and expressed it in poems, articles, statements, and stands. The future will witness more thorough studies of this great experience and the impact it has had on all the basic aspects of the region's life now and in the future.

These studies will make things clearer, something many have not yet realized as it should be realized. However, Zionist and colonialist circles which have participated in one way or another in this conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation and which were waiting for our defeat to take their share of the booty do not want to accept these facts. They seek to distort and obscure these facts and belittle the results of our glorious battles.

They do so because they do not want the Arab nation to carry out the sound deductions so that it may remain in a state of immaturity. This will enable the recurrence of the conspiracy in this or that form when other circumstances that are similar to the ones that existed against the nation and its march come into existence.

Historical responsibility dictates that the Iraqis and the Arabs constantly recall, now and in the future, the chapters of this glorious epic, and that they deeply consider the lessons derived from this epic in all its political, military, ideological, and psychological dimensions. This practice entrenches national and pan-Arab awareness, provides immunity against plotting and aggression, and inspires motives for reconstruction and progress.

Brothers, approximately 5 months have elapsed since the observance of the cease-fire. Direct negotiations began on 25 August 1988 under the supervision of the UN secretary general. Yet so far no substantive progress has been achieved in the negotiations in the direction of comprehensive and lasting peace.

The Iranian regime refused to end the war for 8 years, rejected all UN Security Council resolutions, and declined to abide by international law and to deal with the UN organization. Without preparatory steps, the Iranian regime accepted Resolution 589 and a cease-fire. The reason was clear to us and the world.

The forces and war machine of Iranian arrogance sustained a devastating defeat in April-July 1988 in the greatest battles of liberation in Al-Faw, Al- Shalamjah [Shalamcheh], Majnun, Al-Zubaydat, and battles in the northern parts of the dear homeland.

Faced by successive circumstances of comprehensive collapse, the Iranians had no choice but to resort to Resolution 589, not because they believe in the resolution and its basic principles, or in action based on the recognition of this resolution as the path toward achieving comprehensive and durable peace, but as a lifebuoy to save them from a crushing defeat.

We dealt with Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 in a realistic and responsible manner because our end was and continues to be peace, and because we, since the beginning, wished to avoid armed dispute and to spare blood and sacrifices. However, after accepting the cease-fire, the Iranian regime did not show a clear-cut stand toward a just and durable peace. It continued in the negotiations its known methods of maneuvers, tricks, and noncommitment to any clear rule or style in dealing with Resolution 589.

It insisted on following an eclectic approach to select what suits it and leave commitments stipulated by the resolution and the agreement reached with the secretary general on 8 August 1988 on whose basis it was agreed to observe a cease-fire and begin direct negotiations.

Among the manifestations that we, the countries in the region, and international countries, must pay attention to and seriously deal with, are the statements and communiques that the officials in the Iranian regime repeatedly make—their implicit or explicit threats to resume aggression and the war, the repeated calls for mobilization, the dispatch of troops to the front, and the threats to resort to the military solution for the outstanding issues of the political negotiations.

During the turmoil of war, we warned and advised Iranian officials that there is no alternative to peace and to political dialogue and undertsanding between the two countries, and that their insistence on the war was useless.

We are duty-bound today, out of a sense of responsibility and eagerness for peace and the future of the region, to renew advice and warning to the Tehran rulers. If they think or plan for the resumption of the aggression and the war, they will find Iraq completely ready to defend itself. They will face an impregnable wall capable of dealing fatal blows to them. Any mischief they might consider will be no luckier than their previous attempts.

They must not get involved again as they did 8 years ago. We warn them against the massing of troops on our border and against threats to resume the war to achieve political or nonpolitical goals. We reject the presence of troop concentrations on our borders and will not deal with any such state as a political game. We will deal with it as a real threat and real preparation for the resumption of aggression and war. This will force us to be in a legitimate state of alert and to adopt measures dictated by the legitimate right of self-defense.

The Iranian rulers must realize that in view of its geographic features Iraq cannot suffer such a game. Therefore, they must not miscalculate. We also ask the international community to tackle such a state in a manner commensurate with the threats it poses.

The sound course is to proceed seriously and sincerely with political negotiations for the attainment of comprehensive and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran and in the region. The Iranian regime's attempts to tamper with the provisions of Resolution 598 and to transform it from a plan for a comprehensive and lasting peace into an arena for a political war and into an opportunity to resume aggression will be to no avail.

Iraq has demonstrated firmness and determination during the years of Iranian aggression against it. If this was the case on the battlefield, then Iraq will not be easy to deal with in the political arena or offer the defeated aggressor the illegitimate political gains to which it aspires. We will reject and confront these suspect attempts that some quarters are promoting to the effect that the Iranian regime is in need of political gains to compensate for its military defeat.

The Iranian regime brought military defeat upon itself, because it started the aggression and the war, threatened security and stability in the region, committed aggression against and harmed its countries, and because it insisted on prolonging the war and rejecting peace proposals. What else can it expect in the end, except defeat?

We are not asking during the negotiations for political or nonpolitical gains. We only ask for what is legitimate and right according to history, international law, the unquestionable facts, and the rules of justice and fair play. We abide by our principled stand, that of a comprehensive and lasting peace based on the principles that we have been repeating since August 1986.

These principles are in line with the spirit and provisions of Resolution 598, which when implemented should become a plan for comprehensive and lasting peace. The Iranian regime, which assumes full responsibility for starting the aggression and the war and for the prolongation of the war for 8 years, is also fully responsible for the foundering of the negotiations and for the delay in the attainment of a comprehensive and lasting peace.

The stands of alertness and the precautionary measures the fraternal Arab countries have adopted during the years of the aggression and the stands of solidarity they have expressed in many and various forms are still needed following the cease-fire. We must not imagine that the danger has been removed forever and that intentions have changed so long as comprehensive and lasting peace does not prevail on clear and firm bases, and whose fruits we will all enjoy.

Lofty Iraqis and sons of the great Arab nation, the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran on 8 August 1988 created a new state of affairs in the region, a state of affairs which has confirmed a great truth of utmost importance with respect to the Arab nation and its future.

This truth is that in spite of their potentialities, their rancor, and their wiliness, and in spite of the assistance and support they receive from foreign forces, the enemies of the Arab nation from outside this nation and this straying handful from within this nation cannot achieve any success with respect to their objectives to humiliate and fragment the nation, usurp its rights, and prevent it from proceeding on the road to resurgence and development.

However, this truth requires that the mature forces in the nation carry out constructive, persistent, and organized work. It also requires them to be constantly alert for tackling the breaches and negative traits in the Arab nation's state of affairs. At the top of these breaches and negative traits is the current state of affairs in Lebanon.

What is currently taking place in Lebanon not only harms this beloved Arab country, undermines its independence and dignity, and threatens its security and the

lives of its sons but also represents a serious threat to pan-Arab security. The presence of military forces that belong to an Arab country in this country for over 12 years is an anomalous and grave manifestation in the Arab state of affairs and a course which, if not ended, could be adopted by any party that has no broad vision here and there in the Arab homeland. The outcome of this abnormal presence completely contradicts all claims made to justify it. The continued presence of the Syrian regime's forces in Lebanon has turned into a factor dividing the country, spreading sedition among its people, and preventing them through force and terrorism from reaching reconciliation and accord. On the other hand, this presence encouraged Israel to occupy a dear part of Lebanon.

We are not saying this because of the negative state which prevails in relations between the Syrian regime and Iraq. The causes of this state are known to everyone. The Syrian regime bears the responsibility for this state because of its alliance with the foreign Iranian aggression against Iraq, its abnormal stand in Lebanon, its stand on the Palestine question and other major issues, and its insistence on not showing goodwill and desire to quit the path of deviation.

Most Arabs agree with what we say, although some do not articulate their opinions as openly as we, out of our sense of pan-Arab responsibility and out of our eagerness to make the Lebanese Arab people hear an Arab voice confirming to them that the Arabs are not oblivious of their ordeal or careless about acts seeking to harm and humiliate them.

The Arab states have a historical responsibility toward Lebanon and its people. The Arab states committed a historic mistake in 1976 about which we warned on time. This was when they provided a legitimate cover for a military presence that took place in an illegitimate manner and through terrorism and collusion with foreign forces.

After 12 years of destruction which afflicted Lebanon as a result of this incorrect and unprecedented decision and other abnormal factors, the Arab states should adopt a brave stand to correct this mistake to return things to normal in Lebanon. This is in order to provide a sound basis for Arab relations and to prevent the Arab situation from turning into a state of chaos in which the big one attacks the small one and the strong humiliates the weak.

The first urgent step is for Arab states to assume through the Arab League the responsibility of enabling the Lebanese people to choose a new president for the Republic in a free manner and away from the means of terrorism, pressure, and extortion to impose a president on this country without the consent of its people and through a suspect agreement with a foreign state. These means are still being implemented to prevent a free election of a president.

Glorious Iraqis, wherever you are. Sons of the glorious Arab nation. Among the crucial responsibilities facing us during the next stage is to provide political and other kinds of support for the Palestine question, which entered a new and very important stage last year after the collapse of the Iranian aggression. Iraq has supported the Palestinian Arab people's just cause and firmly and constantly stood alongside the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative, and respected and supported its free decisions and options.

We have resisted and we will resist any attempt against the PLO, including attempts by circles that work for certain Arabs to dominate Palestinian decisionmaking and to blackmail the Palestinian leadership. Those attempting to do so are actually seeking to use the Palestine question as a card for bargains and for achieving gains at the expense of the Palestinian people and their cause. This is the constant practice of those circles in dealing with the Arab nation's issues.

By their awareness and grasp of the profound lessons of their bitter experiences, the Palestinian people managed to firmly confront these attempts and to adopt the decisions and options they deem appropriate for the circumstances surrounding their issue and leading to their objectives.

The Arab states today have a big responsibility to give political and other forms of support to the PLO so it can achieve its objectives. The world should feel that the whole Arab nation tangibly stands alongside the PLO. Moreover, we should make the states that hesitate to recognize the PLO or that pressure or set conditions on the PLO to feel this support unequivocally through a unified, solid, and consistent Arab stand.

Foremost among the tasks and responsibilities of the nation and the Arab states is the provision of all forms of support for the Palestinian Arab people's valiant uprising. This genuine, deep-rooted uprising of the Palestinian people is one of the most bright aspects of the Arab situation in general and of the Palestinian people's glorious struggle in particular. It has affirmed the Palestinian Arab people's vigor and solid will for freedom as well as their categorical rejection of occupation and their conscientious capability of defining the responsible political options.

Hence, any political or material support designed to secure the requirements of this uprising will be much less than the latter's historic value in modern Arab history. Likewise, both securing the continuation of the uprising and supporting the Palestine question will be a substantial contribution to the consolidation of pan-Arab security. Solidarity with Iraq throughout the years of Iranian aggression was also a substantial contribution to the consolidation of pan-Arab security.

O brothers, sons of the glorious Arab nation: The consolidation of the requirements of pan-Arab security is an essential responsibility of all Arab states. The nation's existence as well as its independence and its chances for life, for progress, and for a positive contribution to human life in general depend first of all on the availability of the requirements of pan-Arab security.

When these requirements are not available, the Arab homeland will become a target of aggression. Our experience as a nation points out that we have been and continue to be a target even of the aggression of countries that many people do not expect can be a source of aggression, as was the case when Iran attacked Iraq, the regional countries, and the whole Arab nation and also when Iran expressed its evil ambitions against Arab land and resources and its desire to control Arabs' destiny.

We are a nation that believes in peace and in equal relations among peoples, that respects international law, and that seeks the prevalence of the values of good, justice, and peace worldwide. This is the Arab nation's nature, and this is its history, values, and messages. However, while adhering to these noble values and objectives, we should provide the requirements of power necessary to protect ourselves and our principles and values from aggression.

The achievement of a balance of power between the Arab nation and the quarters that threaten it is a basic task and condition that cannot be conceded or neglected regardless of the political, propaganda, and other pressure on us. I affirm these principles, especially now that an international conference is being convened in Paris on strengthening the Geneva protocol of 1925. Iraq supports the strengthening of this international pact and affirms adherence to it.

However, our moral and legal abidance by it does not mean that we will neglect the requirements of our national and pan-Arab security. This is because Iran will continue to endanger the security of both Iraq and the region until a comprehensive, lasting peace is established on clear, firm, and final bases.

Likewise, Israel, which possesses nuclear and chemical weapons as well as missiles that can reach many Arab cities, including Iraqi cities, poses a threat to pan-Arab security. Israel has used its military capabilities in aggression, occupation, and usurpation of Arabs' rights. It also launched a direct aggression aganst Iraq in June 1981, when it hit the Iraqi nuclear reactor which was devoted to peaceful purposes, thereby depriving us of wide opportunities for peaceful scientific progress in this vital sphere.

For these essential reasons, Iraq will never be lenient in matters that may weaken its ability to safeguard its own security once it is subjected to aggression. I call on the Arab states to adopt a solid, unified stand in this regard, and particularly in the Paris conference which will begin tomorrow.

Brothers and sons of the glorious Arab nation, cooperation and coordination in the economic field enhances the pillars of pan-Arab security, consolidates the ties among Arab countries, develops the Arab countries' economic state of affairs, and fulfills their mutual interests. Regional groups in many parts of the world are now bent on establishing economic bonds among themselves. The Arab countries, which belong to the same nation, have the same culture and civilization, and have common interests would do better if they adopted such a logical course dictated by life itself.

By calling for the adoption of this course of action, Iraq proceeds from its deep conviction in this course and from the premise of the potentialities it possesses in terms of natural resources and advanced capabilities in all economic fields. Iraq calls for this course as it is the sound course in Arab relations.

O fighters, the sons of our valiant Armed Forces, in any corps you may be, the Iraqis' celebration of your blessed anniversary has meanings and indications that are connected to the honorable history of your Army and its national stands, as well as its well-known pan-Arab stands since its foundation.

These meanings and indications have been embedded in the hearts of the sons of your people and nation thanks to your steadfastness, bravery, and efficient confrontation of the unjust Iranian aggression. All this led to the repulsion of the enemy's ferocious onslaughts, foiled its schemes, and destroyed its war machine in spite of all the well-known material support in terms of weapons and expertise it received.

With this stand of yours, you have recorded the most brilliant pages of glory and you have enriched your history with new feats and protected your country and nation from a ferocious scheme against their existence, security, and sovereignty.

In light of the experience and lessons learned from the battles during the war, your Army has now become the model on which the people pin their hopes and for which the nation has admiration and respect. It is not surprising then that the Army has won the great love of the Arab nation's sons and is the source of their pride. Nor is it surprising that the sons of the Arab nation celebrate your anniversary and rejoice over your victory.

You deserve to be admired for your sacrifices and achievements. Congratulations on your auspicious day. Great Iraqi people, when you celebrate this auspicious day, you express pride in your valiant Army and for the great victory it has scored for your homeland, your principles, and your nation. You thus voice your pride in the glories and feats the Army has achieved.

Through your courageous stands throughout the days of the fighting with the unjust enemy, you have expressed love for your homeland, loyalty to your principles, faith

in your rights, and self-denial in defending your religion, heritage, and the dignity of your nation. You have offered all that the righteous may offer for the sake of principles.

You did not withhold from the homeland any precious thing. You did so until you repulsed the enemy and scored the great victory. The sons of your nation will not forget this stand of yours. History will record your feats.

The results of your courageous stand over the past 8 years of fierce fighting cannot be calculated only on the basis of the victory that has been scored but also on the basis of the enhanced status on the international level this stand has brought about for Iraq, a status that is commensurate with its potentialities, capabilities, history, and aspirations.

Your courageous stand has also restored confidence to the Arab masses and has enhanced their faith that they can confront the Arab nation's enemies and achieve their aspirations of development and construction.

This victory in the shadow of which you now bask is the victory which gives more meanings to this happy occasion and is the result of your sacrifices, patience, and persistence. It is also the result of the martyrdom of your sons in defense of the homeland's dignity and sovereignty. Blessed be your elation.

Congratulations to you on peace and victory, and congratulations to the Iranian people on peace, which would not have been achieved had not Iraq defeated the urge of ambitions, thus removing from the eyes of the Iranian people a cloudiness which was sought to remain for a long time.

Glorious Iraqi women, by God you have the right to enjoy the delight of this day in its most profound human meanings. The beloved ones have returned with signs of victory and grace after defending your honor and preserving the homeland's principles and sovereignty. Glorious Iraqi women, you have relived the times of Khawlah and Al-Khansa'.

With your cultural awareness, you knew well that efforts had to be doubled to enable the men to devote themselves to the sacred duty. You did more than that. You have showed readiness to defend this honorable homeland with arms if need be. You have made sacrifices and suffered and you have won. Congratulations on victory, the day of the fighters, and the safety of the homeland and principles.

O sons of dear Iraq, if one of the aims of the enemy aggression is to obstruct your cultural progress, you have denied him the opportunity with your great efforts and work to increase production. Moreover, you have not been satisfied with the continuation of construction in all fields and sectors, but developed action and proved innovative abilities, especially in the sector of industry and military industrialization, in which action and innovation reached an advanced stage.

It was crowned with the manufacture of the interception missile Al-Faw-1, which dazzled the enemies after missiles Al-Husayn and Al-'Abbas, which also dazzled the enmies and forced them to comply with the will of Iraq. If this achievement is a major stride in cultural progress and the maintanence of peace, it constitutes a crucial contribution toward consolidating pan-Arab security.

Greetings and congratulations to the strugglers in military industrialization who are sharing with their people the festivities of the anniversary of their Army. God bless their efforts.

O honorable and righteous martyrs, you are planets in the sky of Iraq and the Arab nation. You have made our celebrtations meaningful, truthful, and joyous. When we celebrate your Army anniversary today, we celebrate your generous sacrifices and remember your lofty deeds. You have built this lofty edifice with your chaste blood for your homeland and nation.

Our solace is that you left an endless source of pride for your kinfolk, homeland, and nation. Sleep with rest! The land you watered with your blood will never yield. The principles for which you sacrificed your lives will remain preserved and shining, with God's help.

Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you Iraqis and the Arab nation.

Government Approves Budget Cut Framework
TA0501202389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The government has approved a framework of budget cuts totaling 1.146 billion shekels. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that the ministers are currently voting on the various clauses.

Arens Departs for Paris Chemical Weapons Meeting
TA0601092389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens left for Paris this morning to participate in the foreign ministers' conference on curtailing chemical weapons in the world.

Arens is heading a large Foreign Ministry delegation, including Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Assistant Director General Moshe 'Anug [as heard], legal adviser Robbie Sabel, and others.

Arens will meet with the foreign ministers of Egypt, the PRC, and various European countries and hold a farewell meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Efforts are being made to arrange a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Arens will return home on Tuesday.

Officials Hold Meetings With Palestinian Figures
TA0601084989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The head of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration, Tat-Aluf [Brigadier General] Shay Erez, and the coordinator of activities in the territories, Shmu'el Goren, have summoned at least three prominent Palestinians in the territories to hear their views on current political proposals being mooted for the territories.

Goren met Wednesday with Nabulus businessman Sa'id Kan'an, and Erez met in recent weeks with Bashir al-Barghuthi, publisher and editor of the Communist newspaper AL-TALI'AH, and with Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists Association. Abu 'Ayyash, considered a prominent PLO supporter, was released in June from a six-month term in administrative detention.

Abu 'Ayyash confirmed reports that his discussion with Erez covered proposals to end the intifadah [uprising], and that he had maintained that Israel must first recognize the PLO as a negotiating partner.

Al-Barghuthi confirmed that he had spoken with Erez about local elections, but added that he had rejected the idea and stressed the need for a broader Israeli political initiative.

While some Palestinian observers have ascribed significance to the meetings, others have described them as simply the latest in occasional contacts initiated by Israeli officials to hear Palestinian opinion on political developments.

IDF To Cut Resources for Territories Policing
TA0401134689 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The IDF is currently reviewing its modus operandi in the territories. The General Staff has decided to slash the resources allotted for policing missions in the territories next year, in terms of both troops and funds.

It should be pointed out that in 1988 the IDF spent 3 million troop workdays in the territories, and an average of 10,000 soldiers were posted in the West Bank and Gaza everyday.

The IDF's goal is to get to a point where a small number of experienced soldiers tackle emerging problems. The defense minister also stated this week that the IDF would reduce its military force in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

'At Least' 11 Arabs Wounded in Territories
TA0501172789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] At least 11 Arab residents were wounded by IDF soldiers' fire in the territories today. The IDF spokesman in the Southern Command told our correspondent Moti Amir that the injuries occurred in the Al-Shati' refugee camp. The security forces clamped a curfew on the camp. Local inhabitants reported that 17 Arab inhabitants were wounded in the disturbances in Al-Shati'. Local inhabitants in Judaea and Samaria reported about four wounded persons; the IDF is examining these reports.

In East Jerusalem there were several stonings and disturbances. A No 23 bus was stoned on Salah al-Din Street and its window was smashed. A No 27 bus was stoned on Nabulus Road and one of its windows was also smashed. There were no injuries in the two incidents. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that one youth was detained.

'Uprising' Leadership Sets Up 'Popular Courts'

TA0501140589 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Jan 89 p 15

[Report by Oren Kohen]

[Text] Following attempts by the inhabitants of the territories to establish an alternative to the Civil Administration, popular courts whose judges are appointed by the Unified National Command of the Uprising have been formed, mainly in the Nabulus area and the surrounding villages.

The courts deal with three fields: morals, clan disputes, and so-called security matters, but they also deal with civilian issues, for example, nonpayment of rents.

The court hearings and rulings are usually similar to those of arbitrators; they are not real courts, but if the need arises, punishments, too, are handed down. The need for setting up the courts came in the wake of the wave of resignations by policemen and the lack of consideration by the Israeli administration for the problems of Palestinian society.

The Unified National Command of the Uprising usually appoints as judges older people known for their nationalist tendencies and who are revered by the public, since the aim is to prevent anarchy. In Nabulus there are squads whose job is to implement the courts' rulings. They usually operate against people who carry out morals offenses, such as prostitution, drugs, and cardplaying.

'Terror' Groups Spread Counterfeit Bills

TA0501164889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The police say that terror organizations have lately been disseminating large sums of false Israeli shekels and U.S. dollars in order to damage the state's economy. This matter was dealt with in two separate incidents.

According to the police prosecutor, who spoke at the Beersheba Magistrate Court today, in the first one, three Arabs from the Negev who were brought before the judge to get their detention extended were involved in counterfeiting and disseminating foreign currency with the intention of damaging Israel's economy. Our correspondent Tzvi Alush reports that the detention of two of them was extended by 4 days.

Our correspondent in the north, Hayim Hecht, reports that the Galilee District Police today detained several people from the Golan Heights and the Haifa area suspected of disseminating false 50-shekel notes. The affair was discovered when a gas station owner in the Golan Heights suspected that the bills he had were false; he brought them to the police.

The police suspect that thousands of such bills have been disseminated in the north. The investigation continues and additional detentions are expected.

Advocate General Denies Lack of Due Process

TA0601073689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Interview with Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, military advocate general, by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] General Amnon Strassnoff, the military advocate general, believes that the charges by Judaea and Samaria attorneys that detentions until the completion of legal proceedings are arbitrary, and are not due process of law, are not precise.

[Strassnoff] I would like to draw your attention to three separate verdicts on stone-throwing inside Israel by three different Supreme Court justices in Israel. They ruled that when such a phenomenon becomes a common event, and a burden on the country, it is best to keep those suspected of such offenses in jail until the completion of proceedings. This was not previously the case.

[Menashe] Nevertheless, Gen Strassnoff said there were certainly cases in which youngsters between the ages of 14 and 16 were released. Referring to the charges of excessive punishment, Strassnoff said that when the phenomenon becomes widespread and grave, the punishment is harsher. The courts in Israel proper have also imposed prison terms of between 18 months and 2 years on stone-throwers, and the High Court has upheld these verdicts.

[Strassnoff] There is no doubt that we will not sit with folded arms—and the courts will not be able to act properly—when such a phenomenon becomes grave and endangers public order.

[Menashe] Most of the trials end up with convictions because of the extensive evidence presented, but there are also acquittals. Gen Strassnoff disclosed that out of 4,000 cases, 200 suspects were acquitted. The military advocate general believes that the Judaea and Samaria attorneys are acting contrary to the interests of their clients. He said the trials will continue as usual and that there is no need for court-appointed attorneys.

[Strassnoff] I am afraid that there is an infringement of the law by the attorneys who undertook to represent their clients. They must continue to do so as long as they have not been freed by the courts.

[Menashe] Do the military courts hand down tougher sentences than civilian courts, since the attorneys are prepared to appear in civilian courts? Their charges only refer to the military courts.

[Strassnoff] I do not think that the military courts are much tougher than the civilian courts in Israel. As I pointed out earlier, the Israeli courts also hand down tough punishments and order the suspects held until the completion of legal proceedings. In general, I do not believe that such an irregular move was justified now because the trials have been in progress for over a year.

I believe that considerations other than pure legalities are behind the unusual declaration by the attorneys. I hope that they will reconsider as quickly as possible, and will continue to assist their clients.

Yosi Peled on Amal-Palestinian Cooperation

TA0501140789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Interview with Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, by Gabi Zohar, date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zohar] General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, we are currently analyzing the essence of the agreement recently signed by the Amal Movement and the Palestinians. Following that agreement, has the number of attempted infiltrations increased?

[Peled] The present number of attempts is no higher, because even before the agreement, there was an increasing trend. What is happening, in fact, is that the Palestinians are enjoying relative freedom of movement, which in itself is significant.

The other thing is more serious: There were a number of events in the past 3 weeks, including cases in which squads managed to reach the fence, which can certainly be attributed to the cooperation between Amal and the Palestinians. This is a significant change.

[Zohar] Do you believe that the number of attempted infiltrations, perhaps into Israel, will continue to increase?

[Peled] Analyzing the past 3 years, we can see that Palestinian activity near the Israeli border has increased significantly. What characterizes 1988 is that there were 4 or 5 times more infiltration attempts in 1988 than in either of the 2 years before.

In general, there is more intensive activity. I do not know whether this fact can be related to the Amal-Palestinian agreement, but there is certainly a very significant increase in their activities.

[Zohar] The reports mention about 700 terrorists who have reached the Al-Rashidiyah camp. Can these reports be verified? Is this development connected with the agreement?

[Peled] I do not wish to go into figures, but Palestinians have been arriving in the Al-Rashidiyah camp vicinity. We are following and studying this development and will decide accordingly.

[Zohar] In other words, in view of the new circumstances, the IDF will decide on a new or different deployment in the security zone.

[Peled] When the IDF has to change its deployment, we are certain to do it before announcing it in the media.

[Zohar] In the wake of 'Arafat's declaration, can a change in the PLO policy toward infiltrations along the northern border be detected?

[Peled] I do not wish to go into interpretations of what 'Arafat has said. By the way, it does not matter to the inhabitants of the north to which organization the infiltrating squad belongs. Ever since he said what he said, however, we have not stumbled upon a Fatah-'Arafat squad, although we encountered a variety of other organizations. Time will tell whether his words hold water.

SLA Expels 31 in Lahd Assassination Attempt

TA0601064989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] command yesterday expelled from the security zone 31 people suspected of indirect involvement in the attempted assassination of General Antoine Lahd some 2 months ago. The SLA command charged them with membership in the Communist Party.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that eight families from the village of Dibbin are involved. The SLA command told our correspondent that the policy of mass expulsions of people found connected in any way, even through family ties, with terrorist activities will continue.

'Slight' Earthquake in North; No Damage Reported

TA0601123089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] A short time ago there was a slight earthquake in Bet She'an, Gilboa', and 'Emeq Yizre'el. Objects were moved from their places in the homes of residents in these areas, but there were no casualties or damage. Our correspondents Elihu Ben-on and Hayim Hecht report that the tremor registered less than 4 on the Richter scale.

Amman Radio on Libya's 'Urgent Complaint' to UN

JN0401165889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Libya—Libya today decided to submit an urgent complaint to the UN Security Council concerning the incident in which two Libyan aircraft were downed by U.S. planes.

JANA cited the Libayn Popular Committee for Foreign Liaison as saying that it had instructed its UN representative to lodge an urgent complaint to the UN Security Council and request an emergency UN Security Council session to discuss this incident.

A statement by the Libyan Popular Committee for Foreign Liaison announced earlier today that the two Libyan aircraft were on a routine reconnaissance mission when attacked by U.S. planes from the aircraft carrier "John Kennedy," which downed them over international waters in the Mediterranean.

The U.S. Defense Department announced that U.S. F-14 fighters belonging to aircraft carrier "John Kennedy" downed two Libyan MiG-23 planes in a dogfight. It added that the incident took place off Libya's eastern shore.

Tension between the United States and Libya escalated following Washington's accusation that Libya is building a chemical weapons factory.

Information Minister Condemns Plane Downings

JN0501123589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah has condemned and denounced the U.S. attack against Libya.

[Begin Al-Khasawinah recording] We received with great anxiety the report that U.S. fighters had downed two Libyan aircraft over the international waters in the Mediterranean. Of course, we voice our solidarity with fraternal Libya from the premise of the pan-Arab bond and the Collective Arab Defense Pact.

We denounce the method of resorting to force in dealing with the U.S.-Libyan dispute, and we call for self-restraint and diplomatic action, particularly during the international conference that will convene in Paris in the next 2 days to discuss the question of chemical weapons.

We believe that the exacerbation of tension does not serve the recent improvement in Arab-U.S. relations. [end recording]

AL-RA'Y Columnist Assails U.S. 'Muscleflexing'

JN0501143789 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Jan 89 p 18

["I Say a Word" column: "A New Act of Aggression and Another One Expected" by 'Abd al-Rahim 'Umar]

[Text] On Tuesday, this column analyzed the U.S. statements about what the United States considers a chemical weapons factory in Libya. It was clear that the United States gave no weight either to the Libyan denial of the possibility of its producing this kind of weaponry or to statements by Libyan physicians that they are determined to stage a sit-in at the factory, which they say is a pharmaceutical plant.

The United States also gave no weight to the potential Libyan or Arab reaction to its act of aggression. Indeed, it sent its most modern aircraft carrier, the "Theodore Roosevelt," to the Mediterranean and responded to the protesters by saying that the operation was routine.

Yesterday, U.S. planes downed two Libyan planes, justifying the action by saying that the Libyan planes came within 15 miles of the U.S. planes. It is as though the Mediterranean were a U.S. sea, the Libyan coasts U.S. coasts, and Libyan planes or any other planes that the United States does not like banned from approaching.

This is exactly what the U.S. planes and ships did a few years ago when the United States unilaterally determined the area of Libyan territorial waters—considering the Gulf of Sidra outside these waters—and confronted the Libyan planes and ships that entered the Gulf, sinking and downing some of them.

It is clear that yesterday's incident was the beginning of the aggression and an introduction for it and that the United States is determined to procced with its plan to attack the Libyan factory, with the time coming after the Paris conference to discuss the subject of chemical weapons.

Muscleflexing may even tempt the United States to carry out this act of aggression during the conference.

We look at this issue from two angles. The first is the Arab angle, and here we consider the aggression against the Libyan Arab people and land an extension of the aggression against Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq. Arab indifference toward this aggression has incited the current U.S. act of aggression and the subsequent aggressions against the Libyan Arab people.

We once again call for implementation of the Collective Arab Defense Pact. It is high time we defended our dignity.

The second angle is that of the Mediterranean's peace, and consequently the peace of the entire world. What right does the United States have to prevent any country in the world from producing a weapon of any sort while it itself is the largest world producer of such weapons?

Who gave the United States the right to determine what is or is not permissible for any Mediterranean country? Can dispatching submarines and aircraft carriers, with all the nuclear weapons they carry, be harmonious with the Mediterranean countries' right to maintain their security and safety from nuclear weapons in particular? The U.S. nuclear concentration should be removed, and the Mediterranean countries and the United Nations must move.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for Talks 6 Jan
JN0601062489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman at dawn today on a visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with senior officials. 'Arafat was received by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and senior officials.

King Husayn, Prince Hasan Address Cabinet Meeting
JN0301135589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn chaired a cabinet meeting this afternoon. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the ministers, and a number of senior officials attended the meeting.

His Majesty King Husayn heard a report from his highness the crown prince on the development seminars that were held over the past months. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i also briefed the meeting on the government's views on these seminars' recommendations, which were presented by the planning minister along with an explanation of the nature of these recommendations.

He also said that the first part of them had been implemented, that measures were taken to implement the second part, and that the third part constitutes future development ambitions to be implemented in accordance with prevailing conditions.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan also chaired a meeting at the Prime Ministry this morning. He stressed the importance of the Jordanian development charter, which was explained in his majesty the king's speech at the expanded development conference, which constitutes a guideline for Jordan's economic and development action until the year 2000, and which stresses the importance of dialogue among citizens in development as well as officials on all levels to confront the next stage through a serious and realistic study of the Kingdom's revenues as well as how to cope with the new situation and promote the spirit of responsibility on all the national and popular levels.

At the end of the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn delivered a speech in which he explained Jordan's position on the Arab situation as well as Jordan's desire to preserve the unity of the Arab position, deepen the spirit of solidarity, promote the national institutions, and strengthen the joint Arab action.

Al-Huss Comments on Downing of Libyan Aircraft

NC0501121789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has denounced the downing of two Libyan warplanes by U.S. fighter planes over the Mediterranean yesterday. In a statement to REUTER, Dr al-Huss denounced the incident and described it as regrettable, particularly since it comes in the wake of explicit threats made by U.S. officials.

Dr al-Huss continued: Naturally, we express solidarity with Libya and the Arab group over this issue, and we have instructed our representatives in the Arab and international organizations in this regard.

PSP Source on 'Aggression'

NC0501134089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] A responsible PSP source issued a statement today condemning the U.S. aggression against the Libyan Jamahiriyah. He stressed the PSP's solidarity with the Libyan Government and people.

The statement said: The PSP condemns the U.S. aggression against the Libyan Jamahiriyah and stresses that the policy of official and organized terrorism that is spearheaded by the United States is a danger threatening other peoples in the region and the sovereignty and independence of their countries. The U.S. stand and the pretexts used to bring in the U.S. fleet and commit acts of aggression against Libya are blatant.

The PSP supports the Libyan people, and rejects superpower custodianship and the belligerent policy of the United States. It also stresses Libya's right to defend its sovereignty and have the technological means of progress. The U.S. acts of aggression comes at a time when the United States is supporting Israel, which is in possession of the most dangerous weapons, particularly nuclear ones.

The PSP called for a large-scale campaign to denounce this aggression. It warned against its repetition, expansion, and effects on peace in the region.

'Soldiers of the Right' Claim Killing of Saudi

NC0501155089 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Beirut, Jan 5 (AFP)—A group calling itself Soldiers of the Right on Thursday claimed responsibility for the killing Wednesday in Bangkok of a Saudi diplomat.

The group said in a communique here that Salah al-Maliki, 30, third secretary at the Saudi Embassy in the Thai capital, had been shot and killed because he was serving "the heretics" in power in Riyadh.

"Our mujahidin (fighters) executed a just punishment on the devil, Salah al-Maliki, and we warn all those who serve the Saudi Wahabi family to stop working for these heretics if they want to escape the same fate," the communique said.

The diplomat was shot three times in the head near the embassy by an assailant believed to be a Thai national, police in Bangkok reported. They said the gunman was likely to have been a hired killer.

The Soldiers of the Right also claimed responsibility for an attack in Karachi, Pakistan on December 27 on another Saudi diplomat, Hasan 'Ali al-'Amiri, who was shot in the jaw.

Arab diplomats in the Gulf have said pro-Iranian radicals hostile to improved relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia are suspected of being responsible for recent attacks on Saudi representatives.

The Soldiers of the Right surfaced here December 18 when it claimed the abduction of a Belgian doctor, Jan Cools, in southern Lebanon last May.

Lahd Says Military Tribunal To Try Bisharah

NC0601074689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] has announced that he will resume work withn the next 10 days, following his convalescence from the wounds he sustained in an assassination attempt in November 1988.

At an Israeli hotel, Lahd told REUTER that his wounds have not prevented him from carrying out his mission because he is a man of principle. He dismissed reports that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry will urge the United Nations to ask Israel to hand over Suha Bisharah, who carried out the assassination attempt. Lahd emphasized that the girl will stand trial before an SLA military tribunal.

Lahd described how Suha Bisharah shot him twice in the dining room of his house. He said: We were sitting opposite each other. Suha then turned aside, picked up a pistol, and shot me in the chest from just a few centimeters away. But I managed to disarm her myself.

Islamic Amal Head on 'Arafat-Birri Pact in South

NC0601094589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Excerpt] In an interview with our radio correspondent, Brother Husayn al-Musawi [leader of the Islamic Amal Movement] has stated that the 'Arafat-Birri agreement aims to strike at the Islamic resistance in the South, according to those who are well informed on the situation. He added: We consistently opposed the camps war,

and worked hard to end it once and for all. We believe that internal conflicts weaken, and even destroy, the front of the resistance in the face of the enemies.

He continued: Today, however, we cannot find any explanation for making peace with 'Arafat and opening the gates of the South to him, particularly now that he has committed high treason against Jerusalem, Palestine, and the entire nation.

However, the two parties ['Arafat and Birri] share the same goal of confronting the Islamic resistance and the Islamic uprising and of seeking security arrangements for the Zionist entity both inside and outside Palestine, thus fulfilling their commitment toward America and international arrogance.

Regarding the recent fighting in the South and in Beirut's southern suburb, Brother al-Musawi stated: We believe that the Amal-Hizballah conflict must end, and we are working and cooperating with whomever is seeking that end. In this way, we may be able to rebuild the Islamic front, which joins us to all the honorable revolutionaries fighting Israel.

However, he added, we cannot just stand by and watch the positions of the Islamic resistance in Iqlim al-Tuffah being shelled by the so-called Lebanese Resistance Brigades and Israel's Lahd agents at the same time. In addition, the faithful followers of Al-Husayn [grandson of Prophet Muhammad] are in the meantime being murdered and kidnapped by the enemy army and its intelligence.

Brother al-Musawi continued: We stress that this shameful bloody conflict must be stopped, in collaboration with the brothers in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, the conscientious 'ulema, and all the believers fulfilling their God-ordained duties. We strongly emphasize that the continuation of the onslaught against the Islamic resistance, which is designed to abort its mission, will kindle the flames of a sedition that no one will be able to extinguish later. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Criticizes Amal, Hizballah Rivalry

LD3112095688 Tehran IRNA in English 0758 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Beirut, Dec 31, IRNA—Al-'Allamah Seyyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah here Friday denounced hostilities among Muslim factions in Lebanon and urged all those influential to help end the rivalry between Amal movement and Hizballah forces.

Addressing the Friday prayers at Beirut's Imam Reza (A.S.) Mosque, he added that it was his religious duty to call on all those involved to cease the hostilities or at least refrain from fresh armed clashes.

Further in his sermon he said that clashes between Amal and Hizballah were different from those among other rival groups in Lebanon because they were both Muslims.

On U.S. plots in the region and those serving U.S. interests he said that those Arab leaders who are following the policy of appeasement towards the U.S., are trying to check the uprising of the Muslim Palestinians.

He also welcomed the recent compromise between Amal movement and Pro-'Arafat Palestinians in Lebanon and added that any effort which would end the tragic war in Palestinan refugee camps is appreciated.

The prominent Lebanese Alim praised concern of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the issues of Lebanon stressing that Iran belonged to none of the international camps and its attitude towards Lebanon was based on on its Islamic and political lines.

Reportage on Clashes Between Amal, Hizballah

'Violent Clashes' Erupt in South

NC0501150989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Violent clashes erupted again this afternoon between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The clashes are now centered on the Jabal Safi area where Hizballah positions are being shelled.

Hizballah has issued a statement accusing the Israeli forces of shelling its positions to support Amal, which is coming under fierce attacks from Hizballah gunmen.

Amal Movement Issues Statement

NC0501230289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2245 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] In a remarkable stand, the Amal Movement issued a statement in Tyre tonight in which it announced that it has forbidden the firing of Katyushas into the area controlled by the South Lebanese Army and into Israeli territory. It asserted that it has decided to arrest all who fire these missiles because such acts, according to the Amal Movement, contravene the political and military resolutions designed to defend the areas Amal controls.

We note in this respect that Hizballah issued a statement following renewed clashes in the South yesterday afternoon in which it accused the Israeli forces of shelling its positions in order to assist Amal in warding off attacks by Hizballah gunmen.

Hizballah Reinforce Positions

NC0601075289 Beirut Voice of L ebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Amid continuing shows f force by Amal and Hizballah gunmen deep inside th e southern suburb, the Syrian forces have deployed in she demilitarized zone established along the Al-Shiyah- outhern suburb line.

In Iqlim al-Tuffah, Amal sources have said that some 60 Hizballah gunmen have arrived i the area from western Al-Biqa' over the past few hours o reinforce the Hizballah positions there.

Statement on Amal 'Offensive'

NC0601083089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] The Islamic resistance p sts in Jabal Safi and Al-Luwayzah came under artille y fire from the Amal Movement yesterday afternoon. posts came under artillery fire fro the same time, these Israeli enemy troops. n positions manned by

In another development, the Isla nic resistance issued a statement yesterday on the Amal Movement-led onslaught against the resistance bastions facing Israel and its agents in Jabal 'Amil.

The statement said: The Amal c mmand is continuing its Zionized scheme to overrun th bastions of resistance in Al-Luwayzah and Jabal Saf mujahidin as well as the inhabita laying siege to the bu Siwar, and cutting off their f ts of the town of 'Ayn intensive sniping and continuing od supplies. Through Amal clique is trying to evict the t artillery shelling, the their homes, and is preventing a wn's inhabitants from ing the town to take wounded pe bulances from reach- ople to hospital.

Yesterday afternoon the Amal cl ique launched a wide-scale military offensive against along the Jabal Safi combat line the Islamic resistance under cover of artillery and rock from Jba' and Jarju', however, failed to achieve its targ et fire. The offensive, given to the Amal Movement by ts, despite the support in Buslayya. One of the Islamic res gent Lahd militiamen martyred as a result, but the resi sistance mujahidin was holding fast to their positions fac stance fighters are still and its agents. ing the Zionist enemy

The statement added: We call on everyone to pressure the Amal Movement to end its crin me, which is evidenced by its implementation of the en emy's instructions to wipe out the mujahidin. The state ment also appealed to all civil defense and relief institut ions and organizations to move effectively so that food supplies can be taken into 'Ayn bu Siwar and the lives of the wounded saved. The statement went on to appeal to conscientious people both in Lebanon and elsewhere to take swift action to deter the criminals within the Amal command.

The statement concluded by extending an urgent appeal to the misled Amal masses, whom Birri is driving up the hills of Jabal Safi to kill those standing fast in the face of Israel, to heed the dangers posed by the conspiracy being implemented by the war criminal and butcher of the Shi'ites. The statement finally noted that the siege and military pressures will not force the resistance to surrender.

Groups Claim Attacks on Syrian Posts in Beirut

NC0601085189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] The Beirut Martyrs Battalion has claimed that one of its groups carried out an attack against a Syrian post near the Martin Hotel in the 'Ayn al-Muraysah area [in West Beirut] at dawn today. The group used pistols equiped with silencers in the attack, in which two Syrian intelligence personnel were wounded. The group said that a Lebanese national who was passing by in the area was accidentally injured during the attack.

The group stressed that it will step up operations against the Syrian occupation throughout Lebanon until liberation and until the last occupation soldier in the country is killed. It warned civilians against approaching any Syrian post because it intends to attack Syrians anywhere in Lebanon, according to a statement.

In another development, the Shaykh Subhi al-Salih forces claimed responsibility for a hand grenade attack against a Syrian occupation forces post in the Al-Manar area of West Beirut at 1800 yesterday. The group said some of its units placed bombs near the Syrian post, and that the bombs went off 7 minutes later.

Israeli Warplanes Fly Over Sidon, Environs

NC0501120589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and its environs, drawing antiaircraft fire at 1200 today.

New Crossing Point Opened on Israeli Border

NC0501113489 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] A new crossing point was opened at Kafr Killa on the Lebanese-Israeli border today. The crossing point will be solely used by civilians. Officers from the IDF and the South Lebanese Army attended the ceremony.

Arab League, UN Meetings Sought on Clash
JN0501164789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The Syrian Foreign Ministry has informed the Arab League General Secretariat in Tunis of its consent to hold an emergency Arab League Council session to discuss the U.S. aggression against the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

The Foreign Ministry also instructed the Syrian UN permanent representative in New York to support the Libyan request for holding a UN Security Council session to consider the U.S. aggression against Libya.

Communist Party Condemns U.S. Act Against Libya
JN0501195589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] In Damascus, the political bureau of the Syrian Communist Party Central Committee issued a statement today condemning the U.S. aggression [against Libya].

The statement considers this aggression a criminal act, which constitutes a blatant violation of the UN Charter and all international norms and laws. It adds that this aggression is part of the imperialist scheme to strike at liberation movements in the world.

Damascus Radio on U.S. 'Aggression' Against Libya
JN0501145789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The U.S. aggression against the Libyan Jamahiriyah did not occur in a vacuum; it was premeditated. The U.S. Administration made all the arrangements and justifications for it perfectly and beforehand. More than 10 days ago, it submitted its flimsy pretexts and reasons for carrying it out provocatively and with showmanship under the pretext of the presence of a weapons plant in Libya.

The U.S. story began with a claim that the Libyan Jamahiriyah is producing internationally prohibited weapons in the form of chemical weapons and toxic gases. Libya replied by saying that there are no such plants on its territory, the U.S. claims are baseless, and the U.S. talk about a chemical plant is deception and an introduction to U.S. aggression against the Libyan Jamahiriyah similar to that against the Libyan capital in 1986.

It added that the plant the United States claims to be producing chemical weapons is for medicine and agricultural requirements and that Libyan territory and factories are open to any international commission of inquiry to expose the U.S. falsehoods and pretexts. Nevertheless, the United States, which wrote the scenario of aggression in advance, continued its provocative policy against the Jamahiriyah and rejected international investigation into its baseless claims and pretexts. Subsequently, it massed its naval units and reinforced its Mediterranean fleet, including the aircraft carrier "John Kennedy," with the aim of escalating tension and exacerbating the situation through its hostile stand toward the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

The U.S. aggression took place, and two Libyan reconnaissance planes were downed over the Mediterranean less than 24 hours after U.S. Pentagon officials had asserted that they did not rule out an attack on Libya by the 13 U.S. warships leaving for the Mediterranean. In the meantime, the U.S. Navy announced its intention to carry out military exercises off the Libyan coast.

The U.S. aggression against the Jamahiriyah is part of the U.S. policy against the Arab nation and a continuation of the U.S. policy of support for the Zionist enemy, which is daily unmasking its fascist, hostile, and racist face and exercising all types of terrorism, repression, and persecution against our Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories. Moreover, the United States forgives and even blesses the Zionist entity's criminal practices.

It did its best to prevent any international condemnation of these practices. It is also the United States that is extending all internationally banned weapons to the Zionist enemy and blessing this enemy's use of these weapons against the Arabs. These weapons include fragmentation bombs, toxic gases, and nuclear power.

This proves that the U.S. concern for security and peace falls within the framework of camouflage and deception. It is a blatant violation of international charters and the international community's resolutions, which state that the Zionist entity, and no one else in the region, is responsible for the deterioration of the situation and for pushing it to the point of danger and explosion.

There is no doubt that the assistance the United States is extending to the Zionist enemy for the latter to play this role, requires a clear and firm reply by the international community with all its bodies, institutions, and organizations to deter aggression and press for an end to it because it constitutes a serious escalation of tension in the Mediterranean zone and a threat to world security and peace.

While stressing its firm stand by the side of the Libyan Jamahiriyah and its brotherly people, Syria is only proceeding from its pan-Arab responsibilities because aggression against Libya is an aggression against all Arabs. Standing against this aggression and both condemning and confronting it is an Arab responsibility that requires support and backing for Libya and its people to thwart the U.S. aggression and foil its conspiratorial aims.

Afghanistan

Wakil on Paris Chemical Weapons Conference

LD0601095889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 5, BAKHTAR—The delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan will take active part in the work of the international conference due to be held from Jan 7-11 in Paris, says 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of Afghanistan an interview to a BAKHTAR reporter.

The conference will be held at the level of foreign affairs ministers of the signatory states of the Geneva protocol concluded in 1925, Wakil said.

The State of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] by pursuing its peaceful foreign policy has always supported the cause of peace, consolidation of security and promotion of trust among nations, takes active part in the works of such conferences aimed at creation of an atmosphere of understanding. The Geneva protocol on non-using of chemical weapons, was supported by majority of the UN member countries.

Regretfully, numerous instances of use of such destructive weapons were observed in wars among several countries causing mass annihilation among people, the Afghan foreign minister added.

The people of the Republic of Afghanistan witnessed the transport and use of poisonous gases by extremists in the country. In 1984, a man carrying these lethal weapons in Herat Province was arrested. Specimen of which are housed in the arms museum in Kabul. A number of school students and children were poisoned by extremists as well.

It must be added here that the markets of these weapons are not closed and these weapons are being put at the disposal of extremists by certain circles claiming the strict observance of the protocol, Wakil said.

The Republic of Afghanistan as member of the UN and Non-Aligned Movement and as the first signatory of the 1925 protocol, has strictly observes the provisions of the protocol and in the Paris conference once again stresses on its commitments recorded in the protocol on one hand and its firm stand on the total destruction of chemical weapons on the other, because these weapon faces human being with grave consequences. [sentence as received]

"It must be noted here that participation of the Afghan delegation in the work of the conference, is the manifestation of promotion of the international prestige of the RA in international arena, and reflects independent and constructive policy of the country as well as its efforts and stand for strengthening world peace and security. The Afghan delegation will deliver constructive proposals in the conference on banning cw (?production), stockpiling and using of chemical weapons and will hold talks with the foreign ministers of the participating countries in Paris, during which it will inform them on the stand of Afghanistan on (?international) [words indistinct] developments taking place in the country, realisation of the Geneva agreements by Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and flagrant violations of the said accords by the other side, recent proposals and initiatives of the leadership of Afghanistan and Soviet Union for ending war and ensuring of nation-wide peace, starting dialogue as well as formation of a broad-based coalition government in the country", he said.

At the end of the Paris conference, the Afghan delegation will participate in the session of foreign affairs ministers of the non-aligned countries due to be held in Nicosia, Cyprus.

In the session matters relating to improving methodology of the work of the Non-Aligned Movement will be discussed, Wakil said.

Najibullah Appoints New Senator to Milli Shura

LD0501193989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Esteemed President Najibullah has appointed Mr Wazir Muhammad, son of Haji Muhammad Ayub, as senator to the Milli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan in accordance with the instructions given in Paragraph 3, Article 79 of the Constitution and based on the Presidential Decree No 1,270, dated 3 January 1989.

High Command Reports Cease-Fire Results

LD0501180889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The Press Affairs Department of the Presidency, based on information from the Armed Forces High Command, reports: In line with the national reconciliation policy and in pursuance of a peaceful solution to the situation in Afghanistan, the Republic of Afghanistan announced a cease-fire throughout the country on 1-5 January. It instructed all units and companies of the Armed Forces to observe it totally except when attacked. Now, when the last day of cease-fire is nearly over, the results of the cease-fire are summed up and reported to the compatriots:

According to information received from the units and companies of the country's Armed Forces, the Armed Forces High Command announced that all armed opposition groups inside the country observed the cease-fire throughout the country from the beginning of 1 January through that morning [as heard].

However, after receiving instructions from extremist groups outside the country, the cease-fire was violated in some parts of a number of provinces from 1 to 5 January

as follows: five regions of Nangarhar Province; four regions of Qandahar Province; eight regions of Khowst District; two regions of Baghlan Province; Herat city; Gardeyz city and its suburbs; three regions in Ghazni Province; two regions of Parvan Province; suburbs of Farah city; one region of Badakhshan Province; one region of Helmand Province; one region of Badghis Province; and one region of Vardak Province.

As a result of the breaking of the cease-fire by the extremists, 18 people were martyred and 39 wounded. Four residents and one mosque were destroyed. The violation of the cease-fire in the aforementioned regions was limited to attacking the civilian population in the cities and villages and to blocking highways which, as a result of the reciprocal measures taken by the units and companies of the Afghan Armed Forces to defend the tranquillity of the people and maintain security in the provinces where the cease-fire was broken, 141 people were killed and 71 wounded from the armed extremist groups.

Also a number of weapons such as rocket launchers, mortars, ZK-1 machine guns surface to surface missiles, hand grenades, antipersonnel mines, a large quantity of ammunition, and assorted infantry weapons were seized by the Armed Forces.

Also as a result of disputes in the course of this time in connection with the observation and non-observation of the cease-fire that were created among various opposition groups, armed clashes took place between them at Shakar Darreh, Parvan, Baghlan, Herat, Laghman, and Zabol, in which 95 people from all sides were killed and 68 wounded.

The cease-fire announced by the Republic of Afghanistan, in this critical juncture of the history of our country, is in complete accord with the interests of the people and the cause of peace and security in our country as a prelude to a lasting peace.

It has regrettably been rejected by the leaders of a number of extremist groups outside the country and by some leaders of large armed groups inside the country. But in a number of provinces and regions of the country, the announcement of the Republic of Afghanistan in connection with the cease-fire has been observed by local armed groups.

The Afghan Armed Forces has the duty to continue the cease-fire concerning those who are observing the state announcement, and to resort to decisive and severe measures against those who are breaking it. Of course, if these groups wish to cease combat operations, the Armed Forces will still observe the cease-fire.

Further on Cease-Fire Violations

LD0501181189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] BAKHTAR, quoting competent sources in the Armed Forces, reports that yesterday and today the extremist warmongering elements violated the cease-fire in some provinces, while the cease-fire was observed fully by the units and companies of the Armed Forces.

Flagrant violations of the cease-fire have been noted in Herat, Badghis, Nangarhar, Qandahar, and Baghlan Provinces, and in Khowst District caused by the extremists elements attached to the Gulbuddin, Khalis, Sayyaf, and Rabbani groups.

The elements attached to the extremists groups of Rabbani in Herat Province headed by (Toran Esma'il) and the extremist elements attached to Gulbuddin's group fired heavy weapons on the residential areas of our compatriots in Badghis Province. The criminal extremists attached to the Gulbuddin and Khalis extremist groups fired 436 surface-to-surface missiles yesterday onto the areas around Khowst District. Today they launched heavy weapons on the security post of that district.

The elements attached to the extremists groups of Gulbuddin and Khalis fired heavy weapons on Shiveh District, Nangarhar Province, today and fired eight surface-to-surface missiles on Qarghalq'i District, Laghman Province.

The units and companies of the Armed Forces have resorted to mopping up operations for self-defense in response to the violators to defend the peaceful life of our compatriots in Herat, Qandahar, Badghis, Baghlan, and Nangarhar Provinces and in Khowst District.

As a result of this, 88 persons belonging to the extremists' warmongering groups were crushed and 27 of them were injured. A Stinger missile, 3 rocket projectiles, 12 mortars, 1 DShK, 1 rocket launcher, 1 vehicle carrying arms and ammunition, and thousands of rounds of ammunition of the various types of weapons belonging to the enemy were destroyed, including their 27 hideouts.

Seven surface-to-surface missiles, nine anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines and four boxes of hand grenades were seized.

Mujahidin Operations in Provinces Noted

Attacks in Parvan, Qandahar

BK0601062989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have launched rocket attacks on the Kabul regime's security posts around Baghran cantonment in Parvan Province, killing 26 Afghan soldiers and capturing three posts.

They have captured a factory in Gul Bahar area and seized all the articles in it. It is reported that mujahidin resorted to heavy firing on an air field and on soldiers deployed in Qandahar, killing three soldiers and injuring six.

Rocket Attack on Jalalabad

BK0601112489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have conducted a rocket attack on and around Jalalabad city. They claim to have killed 36 Kabul regime troops, destroyed 5 security posts, and hit 2 tanks. They also conducted a number of attacks on security posts around Ghazni city, inflicting losses in men and material.

Bangladesh

Paper Lists New Ministers, Ministers of State

BK2812153788 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Dec 88 pp 1, 10

[Text] President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on Saturday reshuffled the Council of Ministers, reports BSS. One state minister had been made full minister and two new state ministers have appointed.

Major (Retired) Iqbal Hussain Chowdhury has been made full minister while A.T.M. Giasuddin and Tajul Islam Chowdhury have been appointed as new state ministers.

Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury had earlier resigned from the cabinet and the president accepted his resignation.

State Minister Mufti Maulana Mohammad Wakkas and Abul Khair Chowdhury have been dropped.

Following are the allocations of portfolios in the reshuffled Council of Ministers.

Ministry of Industry:	Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed
Ministry of Home Affairs:	Deputy Prime Minister Professor M.A. Matin
Ministry of Information and Political Adviser to the President:	Deputy Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed
Ministry of Health and Family Planning:	Major General (Retired) M.A. Munim
Ministry of Agriculture:	Major General (Retired) Mahmudul Hasan
Ministry of Port and Shipping:	Mr M. Korban Ali
Ministry of Foreign Affairs:	Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud
Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation:	Sirajul Hussain Khan
Ministry of Communication:	Mr Anwar Hussain
Ministry of Jute:	Mr A.K.M. Mayeedul
Ministry of Planning:	Air Vice Marshal (Retired) A.K. Khandoker
Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources:	Mr Mahbubur Rahman
Ministry of Land:	Mr Sunil Gupta
Ministry of Textiles:	Mr Zafar Imam
Ministry of Education:	Sheikh Shahidul Islam
Ministry of Commerce:	Mr A. Sattar
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock:	Sardar Amjad Hussain
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources:	Mr A.B.M. Golam Mostafa
Ministry of Works:	Mr Mostafa Jamal Haider
Ministry of Social Welfare and Women Affairs:	Mr Reazwanul Haq Chowdhury
Ministry of Finance:	Dr Wahidul Haq
Ministry of Food:	Major (Retired) Iqbal Hussain Chowdhury

State Ministers:

Ministry of Health and Family Planning:	Mr Rahul Amin Howlader
Ministry of Youths and Sports:	Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) H.M.A. Gaffar
Ministry of Agriculture:	Mr Mamdudur Rahman Chowdhury
Ministry of Post and Telecommunication:	Kazi Feroze Rashid
Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives:	Mr Naziur Rahman Mian
Ministry of Religious Affairs:	Mr Nazimuddin Al Azad
Ministry of Culture:	Mr Nur Mohammad Khan
Ministry of Social Welfare and Women's Affairs:	Mr T.M. Giasuddin
Ministry of Land:	Mr Tajul Islam Chowdhury

Ershad Returns From Islamabad SAARC Summit

BK3112160088 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] President Ershad returned to Dhaka this evening after attending the SAARC summit in Islamabad. Vice President Nurul Islam, Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed, Deputy Prime Ministers M.A. Matin and Sham Moazzam Hussain, ministers, chiefs of three services, diplomats and other high officials were present at the airport to receive the president.

Economic Commission Session With Nepal Ends

BK0501164189 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The 2-day seventh session of joint economic commission of Bangladesh and Nepal ended in Dhaka today with the decision to step up bilateral relations in the fields of trade, commerce, and joint venture projects to the economic benefits of the two friendly countries.

The 11-member Nepalese delegation was led by Finance Minister Mr B.B. Pradhan, while 16-member Bangladesh delegation was headed by Planning Minister A.K. Khandoker at the session.

The two sides agreed to take further steps on setting up of cement clinker factory on joint venture either in Nepal or in Bangladesh based on Nepalese limestone. The issue of joint venture pharmaceutical factory in Nepal was also discussed and examined in detail. They also agreed to exchange visits for further examination and feasibility studies on the project.

A joint press release issued after the concluding session of the joint economic commission session said the meeting was held in an atmosphere of friendship, understanding, and cordiality.

The commission also reviewed the existing cooperative relations between the two countries and emphasized the need for greater cooperation between them in the fields of industry, trade and commerce, transit trade, civil aviation and tourism, communication—including rail, road, and telecommunication—education, flood control and water resources, and agriculture.

India

U.S. Downing of Libyan Jets 'Unfortunate'

BK0501124589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] India has described as unfortunate the incident over the Mediterranean Sea which led to the shooting down of two Libyan aircraft by the U.S. Navy jets yesterday.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi this evening that such confrontations are dangerous and can only jeopardize prospects of peace in the region, about which the situation has recently become distinctly hopeful.

Assassins of Indira Gandhi Hanged 6 Jan

BK0601044489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0438 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Kehar Singh and Satwant Singh, condemned to death in the Indira Gandhi assassination case, were hanged this morning in Tihar central jail in Delhi.

The execution came after a long drawn legal battle and final dismissal of their petition yesterday by two supreme court benches separately.

Violence Erupts in New Delhi

BK0601071989 Hong Kong AFP in English 0704 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 6 (AFP)—Angry mobs of Sikhs attacked state-run buses and forced stores to close in a western suburb here Friday following the execution of two Sikhs for the 1984 assassination of Indira Gandhi.

Police said mobs hurled rocks at state-run buses in Delhi's Sikh-dominated Tilak Nagar colony to protest Friday's double hanging at maximum security Tihar prison here. There were no immediate reports of casualties. At least three buses were damaged in the violence, police said.

Sikhs also ordered storekeepers to pull down their shutters as part of a protest against the hanging of Satwant Singh, 24, and Kehar Singh, 57, Deputy Police Commissioner Ajay Chadha said.

The Delhi administration has already deployed contingents of elite Border Security Force troops in the district where hundreds of Sikhs were resettled after the anti-Sikh riots which flared in the capital following Mrs. Gandhi's October 1984 murder.

Official on Narcotics Seizures During 1988

BK0101091389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] The Narcotics Control Bureau made a remarkable seizure of drugs valued at over 10,000 crore rupees in the international market during 1988. The director general of the bureau, Mr M.M. Bhatnagar, said in New Delhi today that the seizure of heroin went up to 2,890 kg during the year as compared to 2,747 kg in the previous year.

Similarly, hashish captured shot up to 17,375 kg in the year gone by as compared to 14,796 kg. He said the bureau was set up in 1986 with a skeleton staff of just 164.

Customs Authorities Seize Gold From Pakistani Ship

BK0301033989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] The customs authorities have seized gold biscuits [as heard] with foreign markings worth about 4.5 crore rupees from a Pakistani vessel intercepted near Gujarat coast.

A customs release said in Ahmadabad that about 1,200 biscuits of 10 tolas [about 4.1 ounces] each were concealed in the vessel.

Oil, Gas Found in Gujarat, Assam, Offshore

BK0301133289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Oil and gas have been struck at new wells in Gujarat, Assam, and western offshore. In north Gujarat, oil has been struck at Mansa near Mehsana town. The quality of oil, which is considered good, is flowing at a rate of about 90 barrels a day. [sentence as heard]

In the Golaghat District of Assam, oil has been discovered in the (Uriamghat) structure. The oil strike in this structure is considered vital, as this area was not known to be prospective so far.

Gas has also been struck at B-46 structure, 15 km northwest of Bombay High offshore field. It is spread over 5 square kilometers.

An official press release says the Oil and Natural Gas Commission proposes to increase oil production by about 15 million tons during the eighth plan period.

Information Ministry Notes 'Landmarks' in 1988

BK3112050488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] The year 1988 has seen many achievements for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its various media units. According to a review, the ministry witnessed quite a few landmarks during the year. Many concrete steps were taken to expand and strengthen All India Radio and Doordarshan in the country, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

A significant feature of All India Radio this year has been the introduction of a national channel for broadcasts of programs of national relevance and significance besides winning four international awards for its programs.

The number of Doordarshan transmitters in the country rose from 224 to 274. The review says that the government continued its policy of expanding support for the healthy growth of small and medium newspapers.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD0601115389 Tehran IRNA in English 1148 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i Friday [6 January] again strongly condemned the United States for dowining two Libyan Air Force jets and said Washington's arrogant behaviour was "a threat to mankind".

He said the incident on Wednesday over the Mediterranean near the Libyan coast was the latest "bullying" of the Reagan Administration in its long record of foreign aggressions.

The aggressions, from the Grenada invasion, to arming the Contra rebels against Nicaragua, to various operations in the Middle East, to the downing of an Iranian passenger plane, to previous military attacks on Libya were "unprecedented in the history of mankind". Not even Alexander the Great or Genghis Khan or other world rulers had such a criminal record.

"(Americans) think they own the world, they think the world is their property and human beings mean nothing to them," Khamene'i said in his Friday prayer sermon at Tehran University.

"They freely commit any act they want against any nation they wish."

Libya insists the MiG-23 aircraft were on a reconaissance mission when they were shot down by two American F-14 jets from the aircraft carrier J.F. Kennedy.

This was the third military action by the Americans against Libya in over than two years. On 24-25 March 1986, U.S. planes hit Libyan ships and a rocket base in the Gulf of Sirte and three weeks later American bombers raided Tripoli killing at least 41 civilians.

Wednesday's attack was immediately condemned by the Islamic Republic who expressed solidarity with Libya.

"The Islamic Republic will not hesitate for one moment in standing up to this arrogant (American) spirit," he stressed.

"As long as Islam (rules) this country and as long as the revolution is alive, the arrogant of the world will never see this nation smile at such ugly and criminal actions."

The president on the other hand criticized Arab governments for their "cold" response to the latest American attack and reminded them that an attack on one Arab nation was an attack on all of them.

On the fighting between Shi'a groups in Lebanon, the president urged both the Amal and Hizballah parties to put an immediate end to the bloodshed and show utmost restraint.

"I once again address our Lebanese brothers in Amal and Hizballah that you should come to yourselves. Stop fighting each other and end the bloodshed."

He said their enemies—the U.S., Israel and their agents—were happy to see that the combatant groups were confronting each other, but their friends were not.

"We feel deeply said," Khamene'i said.

The fighting in Beirut's southern suburbs and in the south of the country near the border area occupied by Lebanese Christians forces backed by Zionist troops has led to dozens of casualties in recent weeks.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Ja avad Larijani was due in Beirut to mediate between the e rival groups but his trip was postponed because of a m mission to the Soviet Union.

"If any of the two groups see violations and d attack from the other group, they should disregard it," t the president stressed. "Vengeance will not solve anyth thing in Lebanon."

Referring to talks between the Soviet Unio on and Mojahedin leaders in Pakistan, Khamene'i warn ned the resistance leaders "not to make the mistake of a accepting the signs of victory with victory itself."

He said the mojahedin should remain unite ted.

Afghan guerrilla leaders based in Iran and Pakistan are currently holding talks with Soviet Deputy F Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov in Islamabad who e earlier in the week held separate talks with the leaders in n Iran.

Khamene'i said that Mojahedin were the n natural representatives of the Afghan people until electio ons were held and a government of their choosing was for rmed.

On Imam Khomeyni's message to the So oviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev the president said the p point was not whether the Communist Party leader wou ld accept or reject the request to study the truth in Islan m.

"The point is to present divine thinking to t the tip of the pyramid representing materialist thinking," he said.

"The world for many years has persecute ed and suppressed divine thinking and has presente ed it as an obsolete (school of thought)."

The president also echoed Imam Khomeyn ni praise for the Soviet leader's boldness and courage in re eforming the Soviet system by facing realities denied for many years.

In the message handed to Gorbachev by the special envoy Ayatollah 'Abdullah Javadi Amoli, th e imam had addressed the leader of the materialist comm munist ideology "from the position of the leader of the m ost powerful and most religious Islamic nation in the wo rld."

President Khamene'i also praised the iman m's message reducing the powers of the high council of expedience saying that particularly its reference to the e theologian members of the Council of Guardians woul d be able to solve many issues in legislation.

He noted that the imam had shown his res spect to the council but at the same time emphasized the r need to take conditions of time and place into account w hen making religious rulings.

"In order to find answers, it would be very effective to look at social realities and to understand social issues and recognizing the problem."

Libya To Defend Itself 'Any Way Possible'

LD0501163889 Tehran Televison Service in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Libyan Jamahiriyah in Tehran today had a meeting with Mr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, and expressed his thanks for the brave and fraternal position adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding U.S. threats and aggression against Libya.

In this meeting the minister of foreign affairs of our country expressed Iran's complete support for the Libyan leader, government, and nation.

At a radio, television, and news conference this afternoon, the ambassador [as heard] denied U.S. claims that Libyan aircraft have been downed in an air battle. He said: The Libyan aircraft were reconnaissance aircraft and were on routine reconnaissance missions over the sea and the U.S. fleet.

He added: Libya will defend her soil and territorial integrity in any way possible. In this connection it has asked the United Nations to hold an extraordinary session and act in unity with the Libyan people in condemning U.S. aggression.

Radio Commentary Assesses U.S.-Libya Clash

LD0501125589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1050 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, following clashes between U.S. and Libyan fighters, the United States downed two Libyan planes over the Mediterranean Sea. Following this incident, the U.S. ministries of war [as heard] and foreign affairs confirmed the incident, and gave the reasons behind the U.S. action.

The Americans consider this act to conform with laws pertaininig to military conflicts, and to be an act of self defense. They have also denied any connection between this conflict and the recent U.S. accusations of Libya concerning the existence of a chemical weapons plant in operation in that country. On the other hand, the Libyan officials believe that this action is connected with the U.S. propaganda against Libya over that country's production of chemical weapons. Moreover, the U.S. action was premediated, the Libyans state.

Yesterday's military clash between the United States and Libya can be analyzed from several angles and perspectives. A glance at U.S. foreign policy reveals several instances of similar military actions, which have always followed prescribed aims and objectives. After Reagan

became president, as the representative of the most extreme wing of the Republican party and of military interests, these types of actions have been intensified during the last 8 years.

U.S. Presidents, at least since the World War II, have issued orders for military actions in Lebanon, the Dominican Republic, and Vietnam. Reagan, in the 8 years of his presidency, has ordered U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua, Grenada, the Persian Gulf, and Libya. Although there are differences in time and place of the U.S. interventions in Grenada, its attacks on Iranian economic and nonmilitary installations in the Persian Gulf, last year's intrusion into Libyan territory [as heard], and yesterday's clash, there are some fundamental similarities among all of these moves.

In most of the above-mentioned cases, the Americans first laid the groundwork through propaganda and political contexts, and then embarked on military aggression and intervention. Furthermore, the targets have been chosen in a way that guarantees a high probability of military success with minimum costs and casualties. [passage omitted]

Amid all this, the support of U.S. public opinion and of Congress has been secured on grounds such as the necessity to combat so-called terrorism and safeguard the security of U.S. nationals or interests. In such cases, not only has the United States faced no serious objections from its allies, but it has obtained their clear cooperation and backing, or their implicit and indirect support. Furthermore, as there has been no practical reaction from the Eastern superpower and the international community, the United States has not missed the opportunity to settle its scores with some Third World countries.

Yesterday's U.S. military action in reality was a repeat of the scenario of low-intensity war [jag-e kam sheddat] with set objectives, aimed at propaganda and political gains. In such cases, U.S. officials try to control the reaction of the country subjected to its aggression by announcing that they consider the matter closed.

Although the U.S. officials are trying to justify yesterday's action on the basis of general statements under the pretext of self-defense, the intense U.S. propaganda against Libya over the last few weeks made such operations predictable.

In this connection, considering that the provocative presence of U.S. naval fleets near the Libyan coastline could increase the tension and lead to further U.S. attacks on Libya, the need for serious reaction by the international community and independent organizations and governments becomes more crucial.

On the other hand, international conventions condemn any kind of intervention in the affairs of other countries. For this reason, the UN Security Council must not wash its hands of this affair by issuing a mildly-worded resolution, as in the past. [passage omitted]

A proper and orderly reaction by the international community can prevent the repetition of such events carried out under the pretext of self-defense.

Further on Khomeyni's Letter to Gorbachev

LD0501121489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Following last night's broadcast by the Voice and Vision of Iran of parts of the message of the leader of the Islamic Revolution to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, gave another interview to our correspondent regarding the important message of his holiness the imam to the Soviet leader. He said:

His holiness the imam in this message addressed to Gorbachev said: The first measure which will definitely bring success to you is to revise the policy of your predecessors on the eradication of faith in God and religion in society, which has truly dealt the greatest and hardest blow to the Soviet people. And in so doing you must realize that really facing up to world issues will only be possible through such a method.

In this message, the imam of ummah, addressing the Soviet leader, stressed that one should embrace the truth. The principal problem of your country is neither ownership and economics nor freedom; rather, your problem is nonbelief in God—the same problem which has also driven the West to banality and stalemate, or will drive it to such fate. Your principal problem is a long and futile battle with God—the origin of existence and creation.

In another part of his remarks Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: His holiness the imam stated two theological and moral examples on the existence of Almighty God and added that, in principle, he did not desire to involve Gorbachev in a labyrinth of philosophical issues, especially Islamic philosophy.

The imam went on: If Your Excellency desires to research such fields, you can instruct learned people in such sciences to refer, in addition to the books of the Western philosophers in these fields, to the books written by Farabi and Abu 'Ali Sina, as well as the peripatetic philosophy. Thus, they will learn that the law of cause and effect, on which all kinds of understandings are based, is rational and not intuitive.

Also the understanding of facts in general as well as general laws on which all kinds of reasoning rely, are rational, not intuitive. They can also refer to the books by Sohrevardi on philosophy, after which they can explain to Your Excellency that matter and any kind of material being are in need of the light of piety, which is cleansed of sensuality. The proving of the circumstantial existence of mankind through truth is cleansed of sensual phenomenon.

You may also want the great professors to refer to the lofty philosophy of Saddr-ol Mote'allehin—may he be close to God and with the prophets—so that they may learn that truth and science are separate from matter, that any kind of thought is cleansed of matter, and that they are not subject the laws of matter.

Larijani Comments on Gorbachev Remarks

LD0501172189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Mr Larijani, our country's deputy foreign minister, in an interview referred to Imam Khomeyni's message as one with special dimensions and effects, which have surpassed the present daily issues of society. He said: His eminence the imam has meticulously considered the current developments in the Soviet Union, and has praised the Soviet leader for taking steps to amend the previous situation, reconsidering the entire former structure. The Soviet leader is the first leader to receive a meticulously written message from his eminence the imam.

Mr Larijani, pointing out that the Soviet Union's interpretation of the imam's message was positive, said: This message is very important, and Mr Gorbachev has announced that we would like to gain from the ideas of others in spiritually reforming our society, and will soon pass a law on freedom of belief in the Soviet Union.

Continuing his speech, the deputy foreign minister remarked: The Soviet leader called for the expansion of political-economic ties between the two countries, and announced the Soviet Union's utmost preparedness to participate in Iran's reconstruction process. He added: In my opinion a new chapter in the political-economic relations of the two countries has commenced.

Musavi Visits Air Force Projects Sites

LD0201112289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] This morning, Prime Minister Musavi visited an Air Force facility and inspected the various stages of production of an advanced fighter plane, the method of replacing worn parts of the Boeing 747 engine, the method of maintaining and reconstructing F-4 and F-5 fighter planes, and innovations in the methods of repair and maintenance of Hawk missiles. Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi and Air Force Commander Brigadier General Sattari accompanied the prime minister on the visit.

At the end of the visit, in an interview with our correspondent, Mr Musavi said: What we have seen today is important and valuable work carried out by the Air Force self-reliance jihad, by research, and by gaining scientific experience.

Velayati Asks UN Chief for 'Assurances'

LD0201175789 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA—The Islamic Republic called on the United Nations secretary-general and the Security Council Monday to take "effective measures" to end Iraq's continued occupation of Iranian territory.

Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a letter to Javier Perez de Cuellar stressed that the withdrawal of troops to international borders after a ceasefire had been demanded and recognized as a priority in numerous international documents.

"However, four months after the commencement of ceasefire, Iraqi forces continue to occupy parts of the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he added.

Hundreds of square kilometres of Iranian territory is still being held by Iraqi forces, while Iran has withdrawn from all captured areas in Iraq.

Since the August 20 ceasefire foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq have met three times under U.N. auspices in Geneva and New York to reach a peaceful settlement of the nearly eight year old war but have failed to achieve progress on major issues due to Iraqi obstructions.

Velayati reminded that Iran accepted face-to-face talks with Iraq "only after receiving strong assurances" from Perez de Cuellar that Security Council resolution would be fully implemented based on a time-table presented in July.

"Regrettably this has not been materialized in the past three rounds of talks due to the introduction of extraneous elements by Iraq, a derailment that has to be corrected without further delay."

He also noted that Perez de Cuellar and the Security Council had in a number of statements underlined the urgency of troop withdrawals.

In addition to an immediate ceasefire the resolution calls for the pull back of troops to internationally recognized borders, exchange of POW's and the eventual setting up of an impartial commission to identify the aggressor of the war.

"In this context" Velayati said, "It should be noted that in accordance with Paragraph Ten of Resolution 598, the Security Council has committed itself to take further steps to ensure compliance with the resolution."

Perez de Cuellar recently said he planned to visit Iran and Iraq this month to speed up the peace process. After the last round of talks in Geneva last November, Tehran and Baghdad agreed to meet again in December or January but no firm date has yet been set.

In his letter dated 29 December Velayati said Iran would continue to cooperate with Perez de Cuellar and his special representatives "in a process leading to full and rapid implementation of Resolution 598 of which withdrawal is the most prominent and urgent element."

"It is evident, however, that this trend of cooperation on one side and refusal and procrastination on the other cannot be allowed to continue."

Velayati on Chemical Weapons Conference

LD0601093189 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati on his way to a special conference on chemical weapons Friday [6 January] expressed hope the world gathering would lead to a comprehensive ban on the weapons.

"We hope the Paris conference would be the right prelude for a serious step towards preventing the production, storage and use of this inhuman weapon," he said.

Dr Velayati said Iran, currently chairing the Geneva disarmament conference, would actively participate in the conference to put across its strong opposition to chemical arms.

"The Paris conference is an indication of how important it is to the international community to confront the use of this dangerous weapon," he said.

The conference was unprecedented in its wide international aspect to deal with the subject, he addded.

But speaking to reporters at Mehrabad Airport before his departure Dr Velayati criticized the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council for their "sudden awakening" after refusing to take a strong stand on Iraq's wide usage of toxic weapons in the war.

He said the Security Council "in many instances prevented the taking of firm decisions against Iraq as the main user of these weapons in the our time."

This was despite numerous visits to Iran by U.N. experts who documented Iraq's massive and repeated deployment of chemical weapons against Iranian troops and civilians.

Paris Conference Assessed

LD0501202689 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 5, IRNA—An international chemical disarmament conference due to be held in Paris January 7-11 will be a good opportunity for awakening participating governments to the international threat of chemical weapons and for making them do something for permanently banning the most threatening of man-made weapons.

The conference is important also for the presence in it of an Iranian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The Islamic Republic was frequently a victim of lethal chemical weapons by Iraq during the almost eight years of the war.

In light of the human casualities as a result of the deployment of toxic and chemical weapons by the Iraqi Government during the past few years the conference is an international meeting long overdue.

International circles which for a long time stood as apathetic onlookers of the war gradually broke their silence with the periodical dispatch to Europe and elsewhere in the world of Iranian victims of chemical weapons on various occasions since the outbreak of the war.

But nonetheless the international circles fell short of doing anything tangible for preventing Iraq from using chemical weapons. The international circles as well as the UN resolutions did not even mention Iraq as a user of such weapons, and brushed the issue aside by merely condemning the application of such weapons in very general terms.

The silence of international circles as well as the adventurism of the Iraqi Government eventually led to the application of a large quantity of chemical weapons against the Iraqi civilians in the Iraqi city of Halabjah on Friday March 19, 1988 which took a human toll of about 5,000 and injured about 7,000 Iraqi Kurds, the worst human-made catastrophe in contemporary history and second only to the U.S. nuclear bombing of Hiroshima. The pictures of the Iraqi town of Halabjah taken a few hours after the incident were as though a spank on the face of international circles which woke them up to the facts and let them see the magnitude of the catasrophe with their own eyes.

Halabjah is a turning point in the process of manufacturing chemical weapons and in microbiological warfare. In the event the international circles and the UN Security Council should not wake up to the facts and if they

should not take an effective step towards the manufacture and application of those weapons they will simply have betrayed the principles to which they profess to adhere, and on that basis, therefore, the international chemical disarmament conference is a forum for testing the ideological principles of world governments.

But why is France hosting the conference? The answer should be sought in the background of the development: After World War one which also witnessed the application of chemical weapons in Europe, representatives of the European countries assembled in Geneva on June 17, 1925, and signed a protocol banning the use of lethal, toxic and chemical weapons.

On the basis of the protocol the signatory governments covenanted themselves to ban and refuse to use asphixiating gases, as well as lethal chemical weapons as identified in the document.

But the 1925-protocol bans only the use of such weapons and remains totally silent on the subject of their manufacture. The lacuna in the text of the document has given wide elbow-room to five countries for clandestinely manufacturing and stockpiling those weapons.

The 1925 protocol, on the other hand, commits all signatory governments to encouraging other governments to join the protocol, and to notify the French Government of any new signatory to the document. The protocol provides that documents to be signed in relation with the protocol be submitted to the French Government and that the same government accordingly notify all signatories to the protocol, present or prospective.

With respect to the crucial role of the French Government for implementing the protocol and the perpetual responsibility of that government in that relation the conference has the potential to demonstrate the influence of the French Government for preventing the manufacture and stockpiling of those weapons.

But while the French Government strives to fulfill its historical duty for banning lethal chemical weapons the White House, despite its initial approbation of the projected conference on October 22 this year, has observed that the international chemical disarmament conference in Paris should not single out any one country for having used chemical weapons at any time in the past, and that the conference should not foresee any changes in the text of the protocol or propose to include the topic in its agenda.

The opposition of the US Government to Iraq's being singled out as the only country that has employed lethal chemical weapons is solely because of the U.S. alignment with the Iraqi Government which has committed the most heinous crimes in the contemporary history against civilians, and against commercial airliners and other harmless targets here and there in the course of its war with Iran.

The U.S. opposition to any revision in the text of the 1925 protocol and to a proposed international ban on the manufacture and stockpiling of chemical weapons came after the publishing of a communique by the consultative commission of France's human rights commission on September 16, 1988 which called for such revision and for destroying all existing chemical weapons.

And finally the international chemical disarmament conference in Paris, though paradoxically also attended by a delegation from the Iraqi Government, is a world forum by world nations to say the last word in connection with governments which do not hesitate to decimate their own peoples by brutal means in order to keep themselves in power.

Khamene'i Urges OAU Position Against Israel

LD0501173789 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 5, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i Thursday called on the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to take a fair and principal stand against the Zionist regime.

In a message to OAU chairman and president of Mali Moussa Traore, Khamene'i expressed concern over the normalisation of diplomatic ties of several African countries with the Zionist regime.

"The usurping regime of Qods has not only occupied Palestine and made its inhabitants homeless but has slaughtered Lebanese people," it said.

Elsewhere, the message compared crimes of the Zionist regime against Palestinian people with the fascist acts of the apartheid South African regime against oppressed Africans and noted there was a great similarity.

The president reminded that normalisation of ties with the Zionist regime is a profound conspiracy against Palestinian Muslims and their legitimate rights.

Based on Islamic principles, said the president "the Islamic Republic is duty-bound to support efforts of the Palestinian people to liberate their homeland and will continue its support until the final victory."

Khamene'i's message was handed over to OAU Secretary-General Ide Oumarou Thursday by Iran's ambassador to Ethiopia Bahman Hoseynpur to be presented to Chairman Traore.

Khamene'i Greets Christians on New Year

LD3112150388 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today congratulated the birth anniversary of prophet Jesus Christ (AS) [God's blessings be upon him] and wished "a happy new year" for the Christians around the world, especially Iran's tiny Christian community.

President Khamene'i exhorted Christian clerics and those who profess to be followers of "Lady Mary's son" to back the deprived and oppressed.

The only way for the salvation of the Christian world is to sincerely follow the divine teachings and ideals of Jesus the prophet, he added.

Khamene'i Message to Islamic Seminar in New York

LD0101160889 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today enumerated the achievements and major policies of the Islamic Republic over the past decade, and said "the Islamic revolution has found both friends and foes since its victory in Iran."

In his message to a seminar of Iranian Muslim students in North America which opened in New York Sunday, Khamene'i said "the friends of the Islamic revolution are nations and human-beings suffering humiliation, poverty and misery of colonialism, whereas its enemies are the world's materialist bullies and oppressors who dread spiritualism."

The Islamic revolution's triumph in Iran (Feb. 1979) disrupted all equations of satanic powers which had been turned into "inviolable principles" after World War II, he added.

The revolution has frustrated far-reaching conspiracies over the past decade and today both the people and leaders of Iran relying on the Almighty and their Islamic spirit, are standing firm with heads held high.

"Our people and the government have never bowed, nor will ever bow to either of the superpowers," stressed Khamene'i who also chairs the high council in charge of the cultural revolution.

However, the president noted that even ten years after its victory, the Islamic revolution is constantly on alert for new plots.

Turning to the Iraqi-imposed war, he said for almost eight years of unequal war the Islamic Republic stood single-handed against the might of big powers, and Iranian Muslims gained victory only through relying on their Islamic faith.

"Contrary to enemy expectations, we never backed down from our principles but preserved our Islamic identity, Islamic government independence and neither-East-nor-West policy," he made it clear.

Khamene'i's message exhorted Iran's Muslim students abroad, to rush to the country to help the revolution, people and homeland.

Majlis Speaker Chairs Meeting on 5-Year Plan

LD0301230989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] The first 5-year economic and social development plan of the country was surveyed at a joint meeting under the chairmanship Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The prime minister also attended the (?Monday) meeting.

According to the IRNA report, at the said meeting in which members of the Economics Council, members of the Majlis Planning and Budget Committee, as well as the chairmen of the Majlis committees and planning councils were present, it was decided that the government will prepare a draft bill for the 5-year development plan to be submitted to an open Majlis session. The draft bill must be prepared as soon as possible in coordination between the government and the Majlis committee.

At the said meeting Prime Minister Musavi accepted the responsibility for following up the activities of the planning councils. It was also decided that the meeting convene on a monthly basis to review its progress.

ETTELA'AT Cited on National Budget

LD0501223389 Tehran IRNA in English 2215 GMT 5 Jan 89

["Daily Proposes Conciliation of Revolutionary Dictums With Urgencies"—IRNA headline; all quotations marks as received]

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 5, IRNA—In a review of the national budget for the coming year the Persian daily ETTELA'AT proposed Thursday that the Islamic government observe its revolutionary principles also in relation with budgetting and expenditures, but warned against overlooking the urgency for national development amid its ideological warfare with external enemies. It said Mr Musavi's concern for attaining absolute independence should not be given a greater emphasis than the need for national security.

The following is the text of the daily's commentary on the topic.

'Prime Minister Musavi presented his proposed budget bill for the coming calendar year 1368 (March 21, 1989-March 20, 1990) to the Islamic Consultative

Assembly on Sunday, a document which also provides a basis for evaluating the performance of Mr Musavi's cabinet for the current year.

'To attain its goals every government needs both "planning" and "resources" in the absence of either of which that government will be unsuccessful in the task of governing as well as in its endeavors to promote its policies and practices.

In his address to the Majlis on the same day Mr Musavi emphasized on three topics as being the principal goals of the Islamic government, namely:

- Social justice and equality.

- A highly systematic and continuous concentration on research work as a principle contribution to national development.

- The need for relying solely on domestic resources and finances for execution of short-term and long-term development plans.

'Musavi in his speech also emphasized the ruling spirit of idealism on the cabinet, and also answered to criticisms levelled against the government and its performance.

'Mr Musavi's government has proposed the budget bill this year in a bid to cope with particular circumstances ahead.

'The 1368 budget bill is proposed at a historical juncture characterized by certain peculiarities. It follows the establishment of a first ceasefire between Iraq and Iran, a successful OPEC meet in Vienna marked by unanimous support for pushing up the price of crude oil and maintaining it at higher levels, the start of efforts for detente between the Islamic Republic on the one hand and Western Europe, and the Persian Gulf Arab states on the other, and promotion of relations with certain Eastern bloc countries, a rising hope and expectancy among the economically lower class sectors and the middle class and the lower middle class for better social welfare, and a comparative easing of external political and economic pressures on Iran.

'In other words the 1368 budget bill has been compiled with an eye to circumstances radically different from the previous years, an element which also sets its course of operation.

'Despite that, however, a glimpse of the budget bill reveals much the same targets in the national budget for the upcoming year as those in the current year.

'Mr Musavi's frequent accent on the need for relying on domestic resources (that is oil revenues, taxes, and domestic loans for compensating budget deficits) for development programs, and for funding the government's heavy expenditures, indicates that like the previous years the Islamic government has formulated a budget bill solely for the administration of the state affairs and for slow-moving development programs, and that therefore, to look for implementation of short term or even mid-term development plans would be to look for improbables.

'Government authorities confirm that in terms of fixed prices in the year 1353 (March 1974-March 1975) development expenditures in the year 1367 (starting March 21, 1988) were 106 billion rials, slightly different from the expected expenditures for the same plans in the coming year. Expenditures on development plans in the country in the year 1353 were the lowest for the past 20 years, showing a drop of 41.3 and 60.9 per cent as to those in the year 1350 (March 1971-March 1972) and 1358 (March 1979-March 1980).

'The reasons for diminishing development indexes in Iran are varied and many. Such factors as inefficient management, the country having been embroiled with a full-scale and ruthless war, and shortage of capitals has incapacitated the government in its efforts for building up the country's economy. Although each of the said elements can singly be responsible for an economic imbalance, the scarcity of capital and limited technological know-how which plagues many of the Third World countries seem to have a more crucial impact on that area.

'In other words national development plans in our country per se face obstacles, though on the other hand Mr Musavi's government sees also the need to keep a watchful eye on the character and tempo of national development plans in Iran's neighboring countries and specifically Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan. Inasmuch as Iran is not an abstract and remote island in the ocean world nations, it should observe the tempo of national development of her neighbours which include a wide range of her friends and enemies.

'In our effort to uplift our economy and defense capacity we now find ourselves involved in a fierce and headlong competition with some of our neighbors, with impacts, in part, on our national stability and security in the long run.

'In other words the architects of the country's development plans should not aim at international prominence and absolute independence at the cost of the country's national security. Statecraft proper at this juncture is to try to arrive at a balanced combination between concepts of national security in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East on the one hand and international prominence and the pursuit of independence. That is the kind of state administration which we can boast of.'

Commentary on Expediency Discer nment Council
LD0101164489 Tehran Domestic Servic ice in Persian
1100 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Less than a year ago, the leader
and the founder of the Islamic Repu of the revolution
response to a joint letter from the he ublic of Iran, in
powers, from the prime minister, and eads of the three
Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni abou d from Hojjat ol-
the affairs of the country in a befitting ut speeding up of
manner, formulated by the Expedieng and appropriate
Council in order to advance governmncy Discernment
members of the Guardians Council, tment affairs. The
three powers, the prime minister, the pr the heads of the
of the country, the representative of prosecutor general
imam, and the relevant minister wer his holiness the
members of that council. Hojjat ol-Eslamere appointed as
Khomeyni was given the duty of send m Seyyed Ahmad
from the council to his holiness the im nding the reports
nam.

Under those conditions the leader of
reminded the members of the council of the revolution
ency of the system is an important issu that the expedi-
gence will lead to the defeat of the bel sue, whose negli-
any opposition to that may put into ques loved Islam, and
the barefooted of the earth in the distan stion the Islam of
near future, and may give victory to the ant or even in the
of the arrogant and the proud with the sup American Islam
of dollars spent by its domestic and for support of billions
reign agents.

Since that day, this council has approv
important resolutions which have been ved a number of
constructive. For this reason, the leader on very useful and
has declared that the resolutions of the of the revolution
remain in force for as long as expedience council should
ncy dictates.

On 28 November 1988, more than a n
Majlis deputies referred in a letter to hol month ago, 104
to the Expediency Discernment Council holiness the imam
body which acts in parallel with the Islam cil as a legislative
Council, and asked for his views about th mic Consultative
of its work. In his reply, the leader of the continuation
declared that the formation of such coun of the revolution
the war conditions of the country and ad ncils arose from
the war has ended, I am determined that added: "Now that
accordance with the Constitution." hat all of us act in

The adoption of this new position by th
revolution after the war indicates that in the leader of the
imam the Constitution is among the rin the view of the
issues, and it is necessary and vital to pay most important
The new policy of the leader of the rev ay attention to it.
nection with the Constitution makes it bi evolution in con-
people and the officials of the country to binding upon the
closer attention to the Constitution, als pay greater and
anyone who is more revolutionary will and shows that
the Constitution. ll adhere more to

By defining the new framework of the activities of the Expediency Discernment Council, the leader of the revolution is paying special attention to the sovereignty of the Constitution and to its strengthening within the context of the entire system. In his recent message his holiness the imam declared that only when there is a disagreement between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians will the Expediency Discernment Council act within the framework of its Constitution approved by him, as well as of the amendments which he has made in it.

Now, with the emergence of new conditions in the country and the possibility of a solution to the war through political discussions, the implementation of the Constitution is of special importance. New developments in the political activities of the responsible officials of the country, including the implementation of the law regarding parties and councils, are the preliminary steps in the correct and appropriate implementation of the Constitution. Most certainly, the implementation of the Constitution would be a proper way toward further stability and strengthening the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In another part of his message, the imam of the ummah offered fatherly advice to the esteemed members of the Council of Guardians and graciously said: One of the very important issues in this present turbulent world is the role which time and place play in theological scholarship, as well as the nature of decision-making. The government determines the practical philosophy of how to confront polytheism, infidelity, and domestic and foreign problems. These seminarian debates in the theological schools which are confined within the framework of theories not only cannot solve those problems; on the contrary, they drive us to stalemates which lead to the apparent violation of the Constitution.

This is not the first time that the leader of the revolution has advocated constructive theological decisions on the basis of a proper understanding of the government and society. It is only on the basis of such a theological decision that the Islamic system can prepare extensive and realistic plans in the interest of the Muslims.

This is why the imam, addressing the jurists of the Council of Guardians, graciously says: While you must deploy all your power to prevent any antireligious deed—and God forbid that such a day comes—you must also make your best efforts so that, God forbid, Islam is not accused of being unable to administer the affairs of the world in the labyrinth of economic, military, social, and political issues.

In a message which the leader of the revolution addressed to the ideological wings which are faithful to the revolution and to the strengthening of brotherhood, he graciously said: A theological decision which is common in the religious seminaries is not sufficient. Even if an individual is the most learned in the usual sciences,

which are common in the religious seminaries, if he is not capable of discerning the interests of society and if he cannot distinguish between capable and useful individuals and incapable and useless individuals, and if as a whole he lacks correct understanding and the ability to make decisions regarding social and political issues, such an individual is not empowered to pass theological judgments on social and governmental issues, and he cannot hold the reins of society in his hands.

In his message yesterday, the leader of the revolution emphasized the implementation of the Constitution and the need for the Council of Guardians to pay attention to the interests and requirements of society. He declared that the Constitution is the axis of all the affairs of the country. In his message yesterday, the imam declared that the expediency of the system lies in implementation of the Constitution. Those who follow the imam and defend Islamic and revolutionary aspirations should, like the imam, defend the Constitution and implement it properly.

Montazeri Representatives' Duties To Be Reviewed

LD3012211988 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] In reply to a letter by a number of Majlis deputies, addressed to the president and chairman of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, regarding the duties and authorities of the representatives of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in universities, a letter was written by the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution to the Majlis Republic Relations body.

The letter stresses: The Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution will review and determine the duties and responsibilities of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri's representatives in universities, within the framework of the necessary cultural criteria of the universities and considering the proposals of his eminence's representative offices and officials of relevant ministries attached to the universities, in a session attended by the members of the Central Committee of the representatives of the deputy leader. The executive authorities will be informed of the outcome.

Montazeri Meets With Minister of Post, Telegraph

LD3012204388 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Dec 88

[Text] Mr Qarazi, minister of post, telegraph, and telephone, met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday. He conferred with the deputy leader on various topics.

Clergy, 'Combative Clergy' Hold First Meeting

LD0501125089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The first meeting between members of the clergy and Tehran's Combative Clergy was held yesterday in the president's office, in the presence of Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

According to a Central News Unit report, the vital and sensitive role of the clergy in the Islamic revolution and the expectations which society and history have of them were discussed. The need for intellectual cooperation and greater collaboration, while relying upon joint principles and goals for safeguarding the truth of Islam, and for guaranteeing the precious gains of the glorious Islamic revolution in the fight against the conspiracies of world arrogance and enemies of Islam was stressed. It was decided that similar meetings should be held toward this goal.

Draft Dodgers To Be Arrested, Punished

LD0201182189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] The headquarters in charge of finding draft dodgers will begin acting all over the country as of 8 January to identify offenders, absentees, and deserters. The official in charge of the headquarters, located in the Armed Forces General Staff Headquarters, said: As far as possible, severe punishment is envisaged to deal seriously and legally with those individuals who have evaded the sacred duty of being conscripts, under various excuses, during the 8-year holy defense.

He added: The draft dodgers who are found and arrested by the executive units of this headquarters in all provinces will not find any leniency nor will they qualify under the 4-month amnesty law.

About the living expenses of families of the married draft dodgers who are arrested, he said: On the basis of the decisions made, these individuals, in addition to receiving 15,000 rials per months as subsidy, will receive 20,000 rials per month as a loan should they need it. In conclusion, he called on all the draft dodgers in the country to present themselves to the security centers before they are arrested.

Nationals Abroad To Register for Conscription

LD0501194189 Tehran IRNA in English 1819 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 5, IRNA—Iranian citizens abroad who have to complete their military conscription were given three days (until January 8) to register at Iranian diplomatic representations, according to a directive issued by the Armed Forces Command Headquarters today.

The directive published in KAYHAN daily said the eligible conscripts abroad should return home at most by March 8, two months after registration, or else they will be considered as deserters and become liable to new disciplinary laws.

Iranian missions abroad are obliged to faciliate the return to home of draftees, said the directives.

Heroin Drug Traffickers To Be Executed

LD0501184089 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Mr Musavi-Ardabili, the chief of the country's supreme Judicial Court, in a gathering at the town of Jiroft yesterday, advised the judges to investigate the criminals and drug traffickers' records decisively and with urgency, in order to show them the seriousness of the issue. The chief justice of the country illustrated the new law concerning the campaign against narcotics, and said:

On the basis of this law, from now on those carrying 30 grams of heroin will be executed.

He remarked that according to the Islamic jurisdiction, the criminals are classed as combatants [moharab] and the punishment for these combatants is execution. He asked the officials in charge of law and order to take decisive action against those who refuse to relinquish criminal activities.

Political Prisoners in Kerman Said Executed

TA0501180289 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] On the order of the Islamic Republic's leaders, nearly all political prisoners in Kerman's prisons have been executed. Our fellow strugglers report that it is not precisely clear how many political opponents were massacred in Kerman, but at any rate their number was very considerable.

According to our fellow strugglers' report, the attitude of the Islamic Republic's officials in Kerman toward the political prisoners was barbaric and inhuman and nearly all the prisoners were tortured before being executed.

Pakistan

'Deep Concern' Over Downing of Two Libyan Jets

BK0501153189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Pakistan has expressed deep concern at the shooting down of two Libyan planes by U.S. aircraft in the Mediterranean. An official spokesman stated in Islamabad today that Pakistan firmly believes that the use of or the threat to use force to settle disputes is a violation of the UN Charter and international law. The spokesman underscored the need for patience and restraint to end the tense situation, so as to prevent the recurrence of such regrettable incidents. The spokesman added that the Pakistani Government has emphasized that no action should be taken that might increase tension and adversely affect the congenial atmosphere that has been created for peace in the region by the recent developments in the Middle East.

USSR's Vorontsov, Afghan Mujahidin Continue Talks

BK0601081689 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Talks between the Afghan alliance leaders and Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, began in Islamabad this morning. This is the second round of direct talks between the alliance leaders and the Soviet representative to find ways and means for a solution to the Afghan problem, which includes the formation of a broad-based government in Kabul.

Iran-Based Mujahidin To Participate

BK0601032889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, who has arrived in Islamabad, is to hold talks with Afghan mujahidin leaders today.

In an interview, Prof Sibghatullah Mujadeddi, the present chairman of the Afghan mujahidin alliance, said that a delegation of the Iran-based mujahidin, which has arrived in Islamabad, will take part in the talks. He said the unconditional withdrawal of Soviet forces from all parts of Afghanistan is essential, and it is not enough for them to withdraw from some areas and maintain their hold in other areas. The Soviet Union should recognize the Afghan people's right of self-determination. When he was asked when it would be possible to hold the second round of direct talks with Soviet authorities, Mujadeddi said it was possible to reach some stage in today's talks. The first round of direct talks was held in the Saudi Arabian city Al-Ta'if last month.

Vorontsov Delivers Gorbachev Letter to Ishaq Khan

BK0501142789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of USSR, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today and delivered a message of good wishes from President Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders. During the meeting, views were exchanged on strengthening the relations between the two countries and on the ways and means for an early solution to the Afghanistan issue. Ghulam Ishaq Khan reiterated Pakistan's position on an early solution to the problem which will help in ending the bloodshed. He said that the establishment of a broad-based government in Kabul, acceptable to the Afghan people and society, can only restore peace in that country.

Earlier, Vorontsov, who is also the Soviet ambassador to Kabul, had another round of talks with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan during which they exchanged views on the Afghanistan issue.

Afghan Problem Discussed

BK0501130389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1256 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 5 (AFP)—Pakistan urged the Soviet Union on Thursday [5 January] to help bring about an early solution to the conflict in Afghanistan through formation of a broadbased government acceptable to all Afghans, official sources said.

The call was made by Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan during a meeting here Thursday with Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, who is also Moscow's ambassador to Afghanistan, the sources said.

Mr. Vorontsov, Moscow's chief negotiator for Afghanistan, arrived here on Wednesday for talks with Pakistani officials and leaders of the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

The sources said that the Afghan resistance, or mujahidin, leaders were expected to meet Mr. Vorontsov on Friday.

During his meeting with Mr. Vorontsov, Mr. Ishaq Khan reiterated Pakistan's desire to see an early solution to the nine-year Afghan conflict through the creation of a broadbased government in Kabul, the sources said.

Afghan resistance leaders have ruled out the participation of the ruling communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) of President Najibullah in an eventual new government in Kabul.

The sources said Mr. Vorontsov conveyed a message of congratulations from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Mr. Ishaq Khan on his election as president of Pakistan. Mr. Ishaq Khan replaced the late General Mohammad Ziaul Haq as interim president after Gen. Ziaul Haq was killed in a plane crash in August. He was later elected to the post.

Earlier Thursday, Mr. Vorontsov held a second round of talks on the Afghan issue with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the sources said. Details of those talks were not available.

Mr. Vorontsov, on his arrival here, cast doubt on whether the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan would be completed by the February 15 deadline set in a U.N.-brokered Geneva accord, saying the commitment to pull out would "depend on developments."

Yaqub Khan Meets Iran-Based Afghan Mujahidin

BK0501154389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] A delegation of the Afghan mujahidin based in Iran called on Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad this evening. During the talks, which Foreign Affairs Adviser Iqbal Akhund also attended, views were exchanged on the present situation in Afghanistan. The two sides were found to hold identical views on the question of the Soviet troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan by 15 February.

Bhutto, Ishaq Khan Congratulate Premadasa

BK3112075188 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] The president and prime minister have extended greetings to Mr R. Premadasa on his election as president of Sri Lanka.

The president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in his message expressed the confidence that friendly relations and bilateral cooperation between the brotherly countries of Pakistan and Sri Lanka will be further strengthened during the tenure of Mr Premadasa.

The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, in her message to the president-elect said [words indistinct] indeed a manifestation of the Sri Lankan people's confidence in his sagacious leadership.

Bhutto Plans Pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia 10 Jan

BK0301155489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the prime minister's visit to Saudi Arabia to perform minor pilgrimage will be a private visit. The spokesman said the 2-day visit will begin on 10 January and will be only for religious purposes.

Sri Lanka

Indian Troops Begin Phased Withdrawal

BK0501145989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Colombo, Jan 5 (AFP)—Indian troops have begun a phased withdrawal from Sri Lanka at the request of new President Ranasinghe Premadasa, an Indian High Commission (embassy) official here said Thursday [5 January].

He said up to a battalion had left "in the past two or three days" and a further battalion was scheduled to leave from Sri Lanka's northernmost port, Kankesanthurai, on Sunday.

Indian High Commissioner Jyothindra Nath Dixit announced Sunday [1 January] that India would remove up to a "brigade by the middle of the month" on the request of Mr. Premadasa.

India deployed between 45,000 and 50,000 troops in Tamil-populated Northern and Eastern Provinces in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end the island's bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

No deadline has been fixed for the pullout.

Mr. Premadasa, a critic of the peace pact, vowed during his election campaign to exchange the accord for a friendship treaty "based on more reciprocity" and send back Indian soldiers.

The troop pullout was discussed during a lengthy breakfast meeting between former President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi last week, Mr. Dixit told reporters here Sunday.

The Indian pullout announcement came Sunday, a day before Mr. Premadasa took over the leadership of the island republic for a six-year term from Mr. Jayewardene.

Mr. Dixit said up to two battalions would leave "in the next few days." He could not say how many would be involved in the first pullout, but Sri Lankan officials said about 5,000 soldiers would go back in the first batch.

Indian troops sent to Sri Lanka on a peacekeeping mission ended up fighting Tamil separatist guerrillas who refused to surrender arms in line with the peace pact which promised them greater autonomy in Tamil regions.

New Delhi launched a major offensive against the dominant separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in October 1987 and has lost nearly 700 soldiers in bitter fighting.

The presence of foreign troops has also triggered widespread protests by majority Sinhalese rebels waging a violent anti-government campaign from the tropical island's south.

Delhi Radio on Troop Pullout, Election Filing
BK0501161089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] One battalion of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] has left Sri Lanka. This follows the Indian Government's announcement on the 1st of this month that two battalions of the PKF will leave Sri Lanka shortly. The second battalion is scheduled to leave the island on Sunday [8 January].

The chief of the Army Staff, General V.N. Sharma, arrived in Jaffna today on a 3-day visit to the Northeastern Province. Gen Sharma, who was accompanied by the commanding officer of the PKF, Lieutenant General A.S. Kalkat, was received on his arrival by the Sri Lankan chief of Army Staff. Gen Sharma met the senior officers of the PKF at the divisional headquarters at Palali.

Meanwhile, in the Northeastern Province, three more Tamil groups filed their nominations today for the forthcoming parliamentary elections. Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, TULF, and UNP filed their nominations in Trincomalee. Each party has named seven candidates. For the first time, a woman candidate has been nominated to contest the election from the Northeastern Province. She is Miss (Telakkam Selvamani Vadivelo) of TELO, one of the constituents of the 4-party Tamil group contesting 31 parliamentary seats in the Northeastern Province under TULF banner. The other constituents of the group are EPRLF, ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front], and TELO-R [R. Vasudeva faction]. Our correspondent Bhuva Raghavan understands that EROS, another major Tamil group which has not joined the TULF group, is considering to contest the election on its own.